THIS IS THE FOURTH VOLUME. I'M VERY HAPPY TO EVERYONE WHO'S HELPED ME MAKE IT TO SHIROU AND TORAKICHI'S SECOND JOURNEY.

—TAGAWA MI

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〔ヘラ子草〕

4

BLADE COMICS

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〔ヘラ子草〕

4

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MAG Garden

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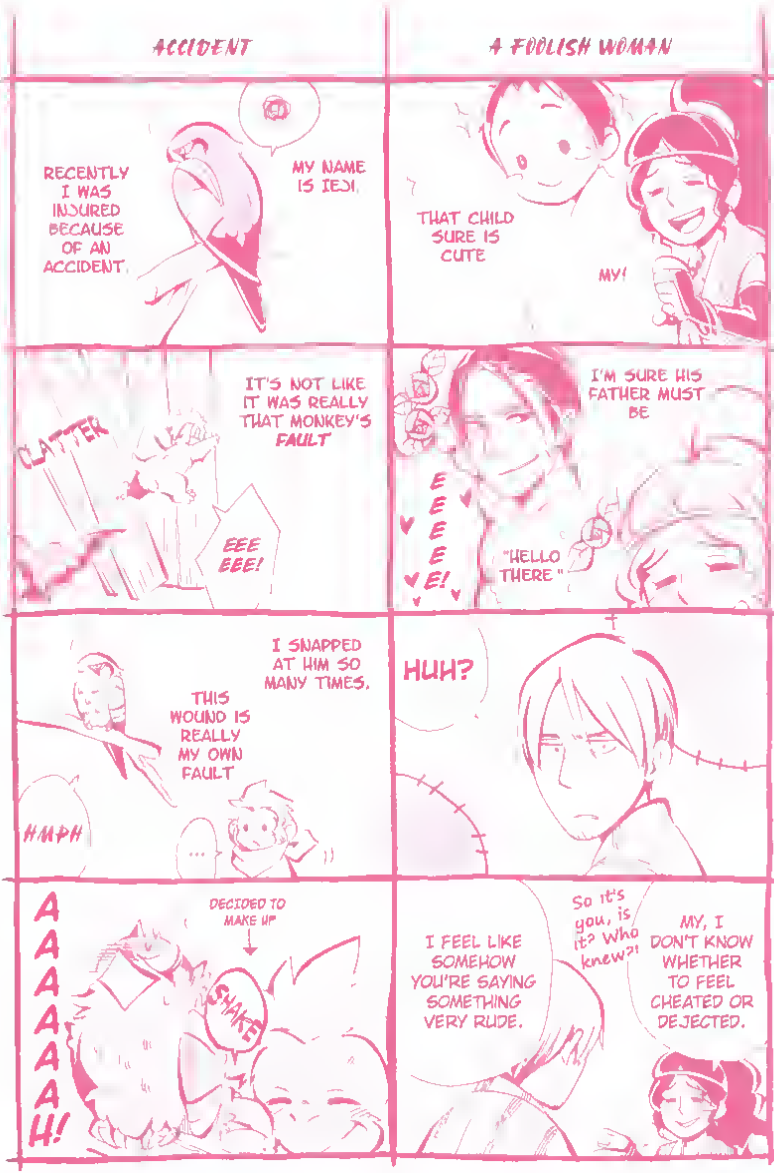
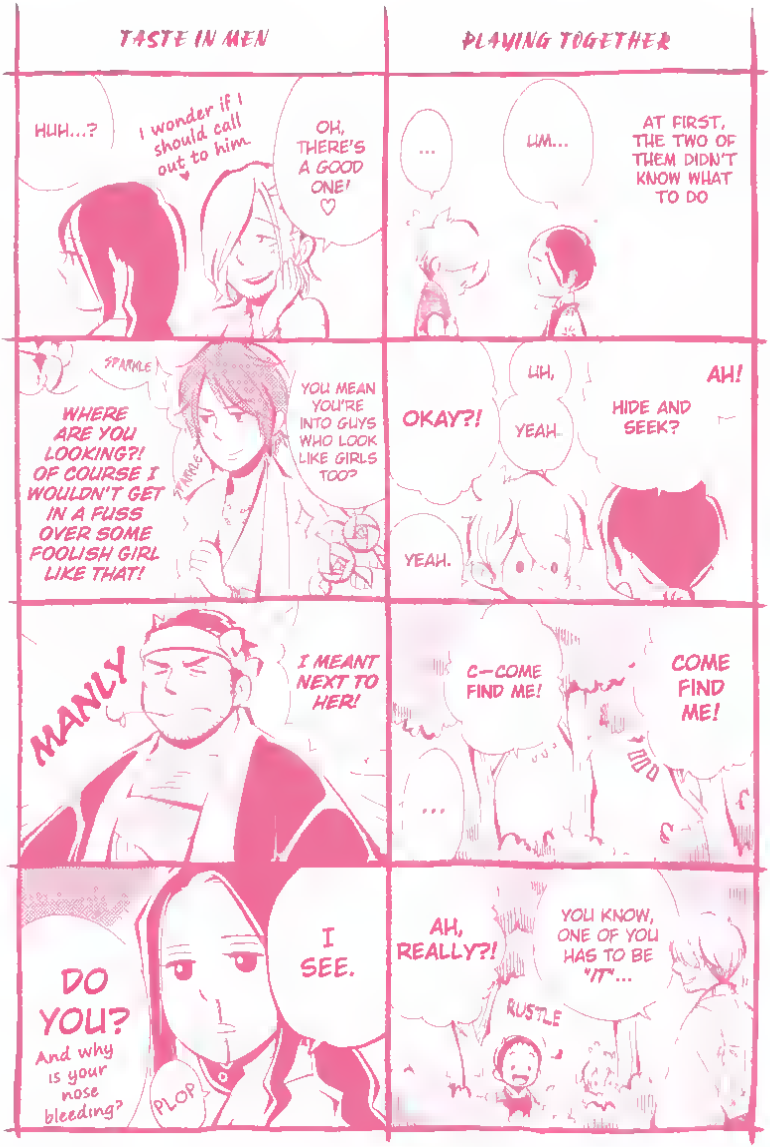
TORAKICHI AND SHIROU SET OFF ON A NEW FATHER-AND-SON JOURNEY.

WHO WILL THEY MEET ALONG THE WAY THIS TIME?


ACCIDENT
A FOOLISH WOMAN
RECENTLY I WAS INJURED BECAUSE OF AN ACCIDENT.
MY NAME IS IEJI.
THAT CHILD SURE IS CUTE
MY!
CLATTER
IT'S NOT LIKE IT WAS REALLY THAT MONKEY'S FAULT
EEE EEE!
I'M SURE HIS FATHER MUST BE
EEEEEE!
"HELLO THERE."
I SNAPPED AT HIM SO MANY TIMES.
THIS WOUND IS REALLY MY OWN FAULT
HMPH
HUH?
AAAAAAH!
DECIDED TO MAKE UP
SHAKE
I FEEL LIKE SOMEHOW YOU'RE SAYING SOMETHING VERY RUDE.
So it's you, is it? Who knew?!
MY, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO FEEL CHEATED OR DEJECTED.


TASTE IN MEN
HUH...?
I wonder if I should call out to him.
OH, THERE'S A GOOD ONE!
SPARKLE
WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?! OF COURSE I WOULDN'T GET IN A FUSS OVER SOME FOOLISH GIRL LIKE THAT!
SPARKLE
YOU MEAN YOU'RE INTO GUYS WHO LOOK LIKE GIRLS TOO?
MANLY
I MEANT NEXT TO HER!
DO YOU?
And why is your nose bleeding?
PLOP
I SEE.
PLAYING TOGETHER
...
UM...
AT FIRST, THE TWO OF THEM DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
OKAY?!
UH, YEAH.
YEAH.
AH!
HIDE AND SEEK?
C—COME FIND ME!
...
COME FIND ME!
AH, REALLY?!
YOU KNOW, ONE OF YOU HAS TO BE "IT"...
RUSTLE

ちちこぐさ

CHAPTER 19 - GROWTH AND DIARIES

CHAPTER 20 - SPRING AND CONFESSIONS

CHAPTER 21 - SWEET FLAG AND HELMET

CHAPTER 23 - ABANDONED CHILD AND FELLOW TRAVELLER

CHAPTER 24 - SHIROU AND KOMA

CHAPTER 25 - FIRST FRIEND

EXTRA STORY - SHIROU AND THE SNOW DAY

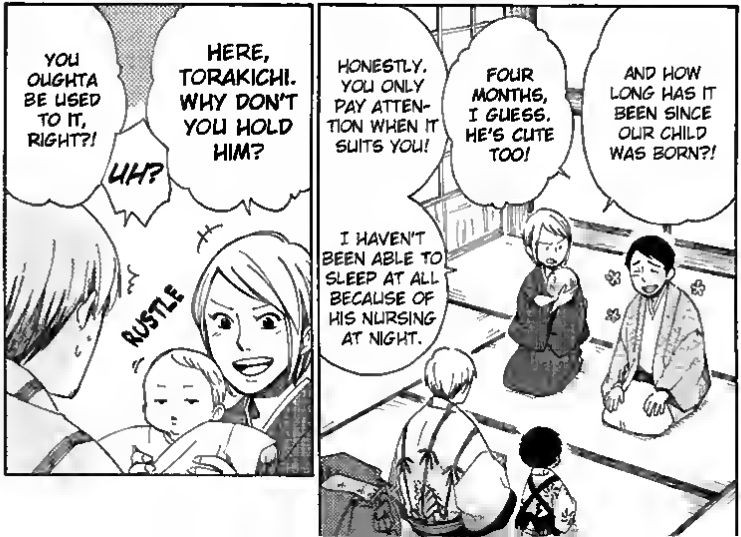
CHAPTER 19 – GROWTH AND DIARIES
'KAY.
I'M ALL DONE LET'S GO.
SHIROU!
YEAH. UM, THERE WAS A LOT OF CUDWEED!*
WERE YOU PICKING FLOWERS THE WHOLE TIME?
YOU WERE BY YOURSELF FOR QUITE A WHILE THERE.
*THE JAPANESE NAME FOR THIS PLANT IS "MOTHER AND CHILD GRASS"

HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
THIS MOUNTAIN PATH IS STEEP, HUH?
HERE, LET'S HOLD HANDS.
I'M OKAY.
SHIROU CAN DO IT BY HIMSELF!
PANT

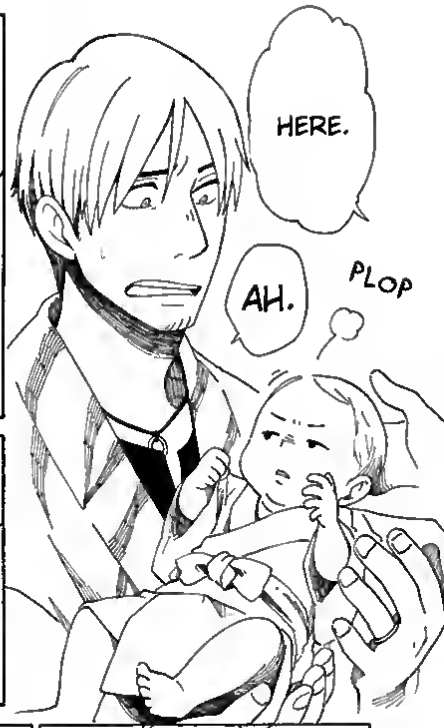
TAP
TAP
PANT
PANT
OH YEAH?
YEAH!
WOW!

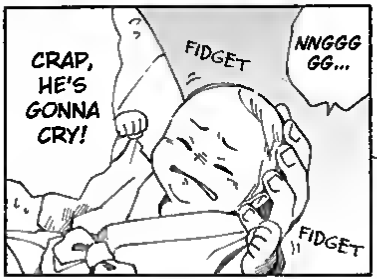
YOU'VE GOTTEN SO BIG!
OH! IS THAT SHIROU?!
SO YOU'RE FOUR NOW ALREADY, HUH?
YEAH.
HELLO.
WE'RE FROM NANAKU-SAYA.
BOW
THE LAST TIME YOU WERE HERE, YOU BARELY LEFT YOUR PAPA'S SHADOW.

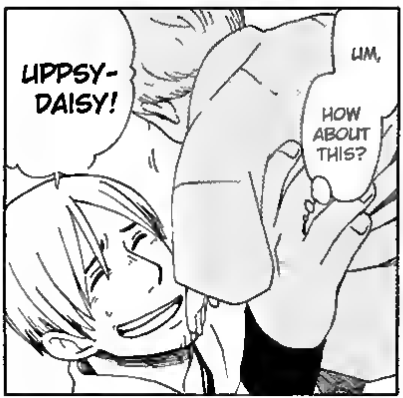
I GUESS SO.
IN THE TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN YOU, YOU'VE MATURED QUITE A LOT, HUH?
And have you grown?
GRIN


YOU OUGHTA BE USED TO IT, RIGHT?!
HERE, TORAKICHI. WHY DON'T YOU HOLD HIM?
UH?
RUSTLE
HONESTLY. YOU ONLY PAY ATTENTION WHEN IT SUITS YOU!
FOUR MONTHS, I GUESS. HE'S CUTE TOO!
AND HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE OUR CHILD WAS BORN?!
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP AT ALL BECAUSE OF HIS NURSING AT NIGHT.

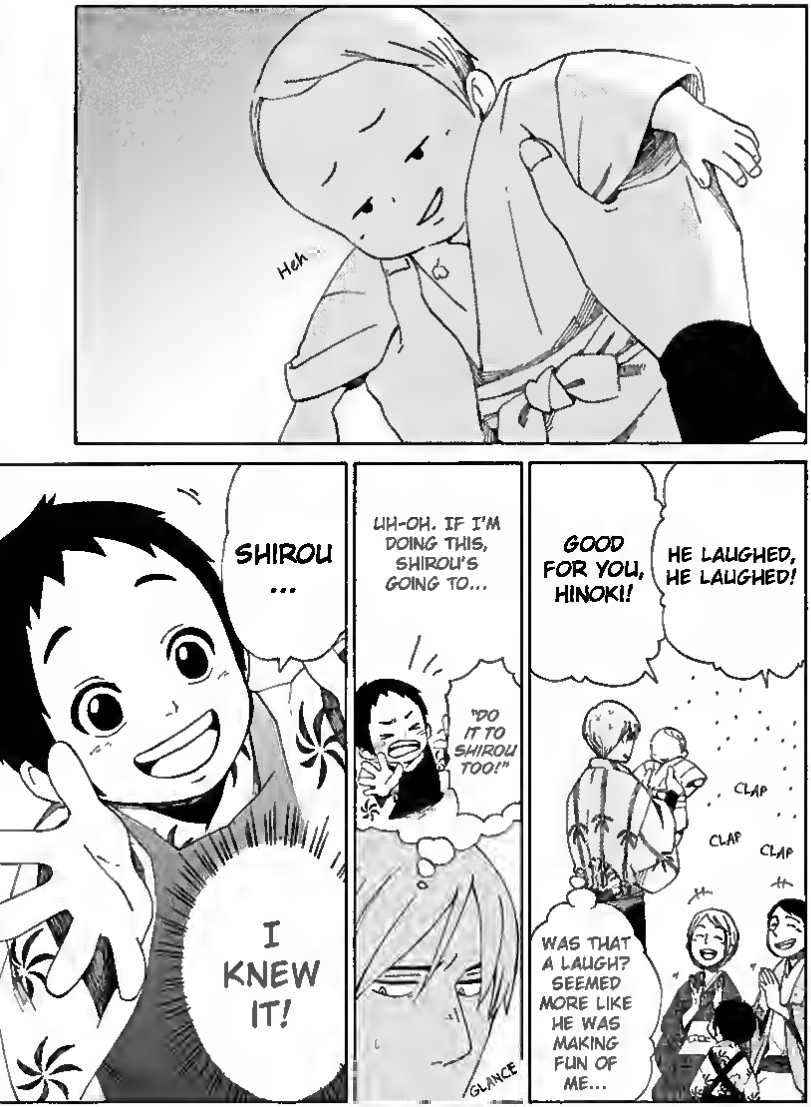
WELL OF COURSE, HE'S USED TO A 4-YEAR-OLD.
YOU SEEM AWFULLY STIFF...
TWITCH
TWITCH
...

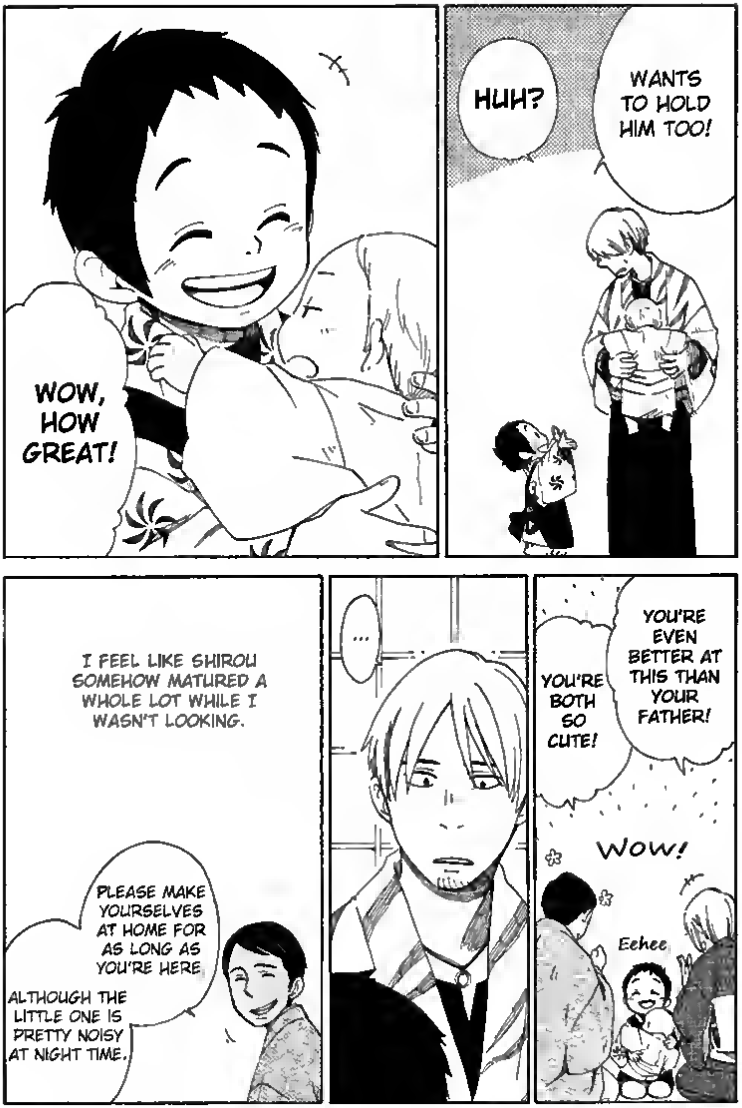

HERE.
AH.
PLOP


CRAP, HE'S GONNA CRY!
FIDGET
NNGGGGG...
FIDGET


UPPSY-DAISY!
UM, HOW ABOUT THIS?

YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?!
IF YOU TOSS HIM UP IN THE AIR, HE'LL LIKE IT!
WOW, YOU LOOK REALLY UNCOM-FORTABLE.
Don't you have experience?
Ngg!


Hch
HE LAUGHED, HE LAUGHED!
GOOD FOR YOU, HINOKI!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WAS THAT A LAUGH? SEEMED MORE LIKE HE WAS MAKING FUN OF ME...
UH-OH. IF I'M DOING THIS, SHIROU'S GOING TO...
"DO IT TO SHIROU TOO!"
GLANCE
SHIROU ...
I KNEW IT!


WOW, HOW GREAT!
HUH?
WANTS TO HOLD HIM TOO!
I FEEL LIKE SHIROU SOMEHOW MATURED A WHOLE LOT WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING.
PLEASE MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME FOR AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE
ALTHOUGH THE LITTLE ONE IS PRETTY NOISY AT NIGHT TIME.
...
YOU'RE BOTH SO CUTE!
YOU'RE EVEN BETTER AT THIS THAN YOUR FATHER!
Wow!
Eehee

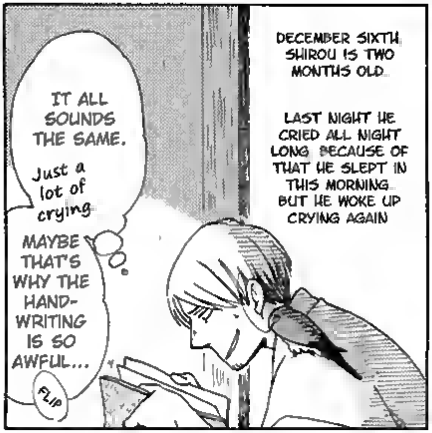
HE'S EVEN SLEEPING BY HIMSELF?!
When did he start doing that?
zzz
zzz
HE NEVER USED TO BE ABLE TO SLEEP WITHOUT ME NEXT TO HIM...
WAAH!
...
AHA, THAT ONE'S CRYING THOUGH.
I USED TO HEAR THAT SOUND A LOT FROM SHIROU...
WAAAAH! WAAAAAAH!

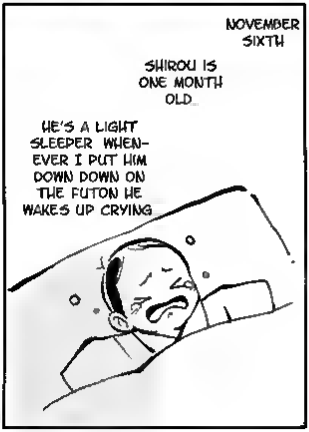
FLIP
FWOO
SHINOHATA'S DEVELOPMENT YEAR 1 BOOK
HARD TO BELIEVE HOW REMARKABLY HE'S CHANGED LATELY...
"TAKE THESE."
ROLL

HER HAND-WRITING IS AWFUL...
OCTOBER 23RD

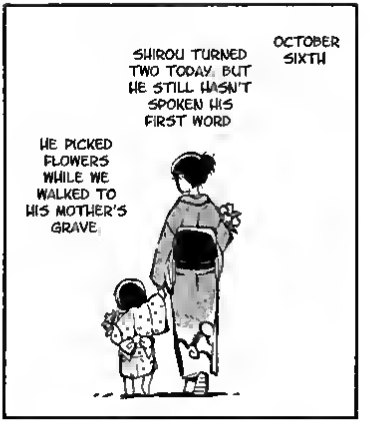
"THEY'RE DIARIES YOUR WIFE WROTE ABOUT SHIROU."

EVEN IF I GAVE HIM MY BREAST, HE WOULD ONLY CALM DOWN A LITTLE BEFORE HE STARTED CRYING AGAIN.
SHIROU IS ONE WEEK OLD. HE CRIES A LOT


IT ALL SOUNDS THE SAME.
Just a lot of crying.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY THE HAND-WRITING IS SO AWFUL...
FLIP
DECEMBER SIXTH
SHIROU IS TWO MONTHS OLD.
LAST NIGHT HE CRIED ALL NIGHT LONG. BECAUSE OF THAT HE SLEPT IN THIS MORNING. BUT HE WOKE UP CRYING AGAIN

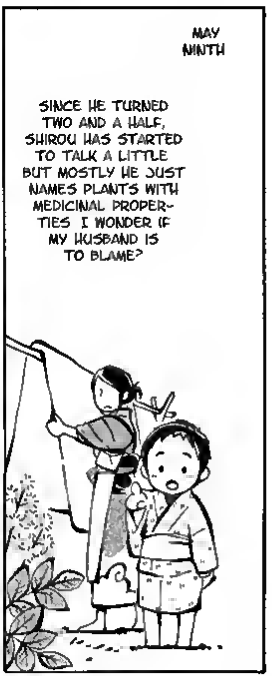

NOVEMBER SIXTH
SHIROU IS ONE MONTH OLD.
HE'S A LIGHT SLEEPER. WHEN-EVER I PUT HIM DOWN DOWN ON THE FUTON HE WAKES UP CRYING.

APRIL FIFTH
SHIROU WILL BE TWO AND A HALF TOMORROW HE CRIES A LOT AT NIGHT
HE LIKES TO PILE UP ROCKS IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM AND KNOCK THEM DOWN AGAIN


OCTOBER SIXTH
SHIROU TURNED TWO TODAY. BUT HE STILL HASN'T SPOKEN HIS FIRST WORD
HE PICKED FLOWERS WHILE WE WALKED TO HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE

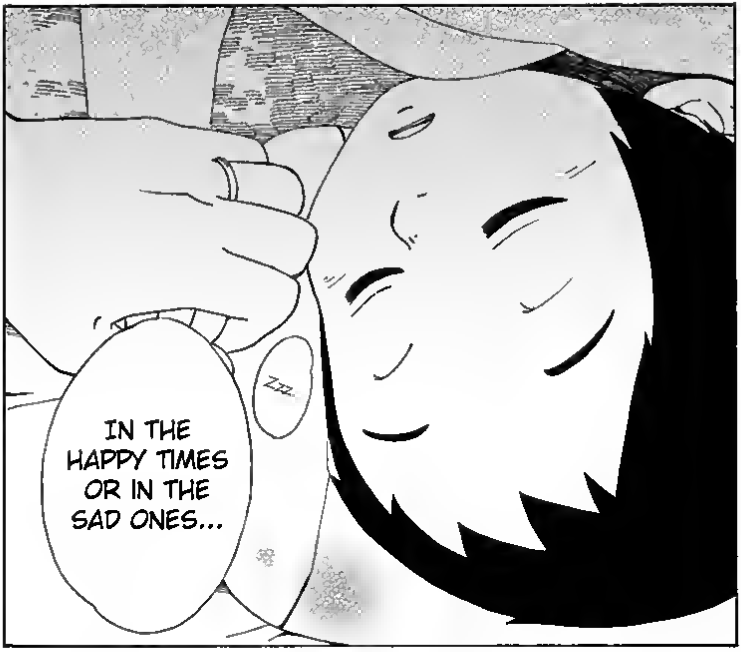
HE REALLY WAS A TROUBLESOME CHILD...

SAYING PLANT NAMES THAT EARLY HUH?
Takes after me, I guess
Ha ha


MAY NINTH
SINCE HE TURNED TWO AND A HALF, SHIROU HAS STARTED TO TALK A LITTLE BUT MOSTLY HE JUST NAMES PLANTS WITH MEDICINAL PROPERTIES I WONDER IF MY HUSBAND IS TO BLAME?

BUT BECAUSE OF ALL THE CARE HE'S RECEIVED FROM EVERONE,
HE PUT MY WIFE AND SISTER THROUGH A LOT.
BRUSH
INTO SOMEONE SPLENDID.
SHIROU'S GROWN FROM A CRYBABY
HIC...

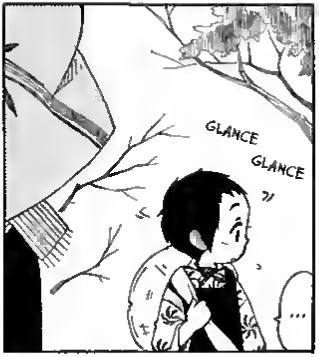
IS HE HAVING A NIGHTMARE? IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
SLIDE
WAAH!
WAAH!
FIDGET
...NN
NN...
GRIP
I WAS NEVER THERE FOR HIM BACK THEN.


IN THE HAPPY TIMES OR IN THE SAD ONES...
Zzz.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
WE REALLY APPRECI-ATE YOUR LETTING US STAY.
WELL, TAKE CARE ON YOUR TRAVELS.

YEAH.
WE'VE GOT QUITE A WAYS TO GO TODAY, SO DO YOUR BEST!

WHAT IS IT?
WHISPER
WHISPER

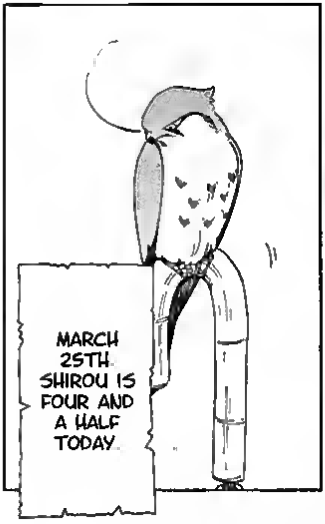

GLANCE
GLANCE
...

HM?
HEY, PAPA.
UM, LISTEN.
POKE

WHACK
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
Hee hee!
HUH...?
GRIN
GRIN
HON-ESTLY.
BUT I GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
ROLL
ALL RIGHT THEN,
HUP
COME AT ME!

TAP
UP!
GRAB
HU—
GRAB

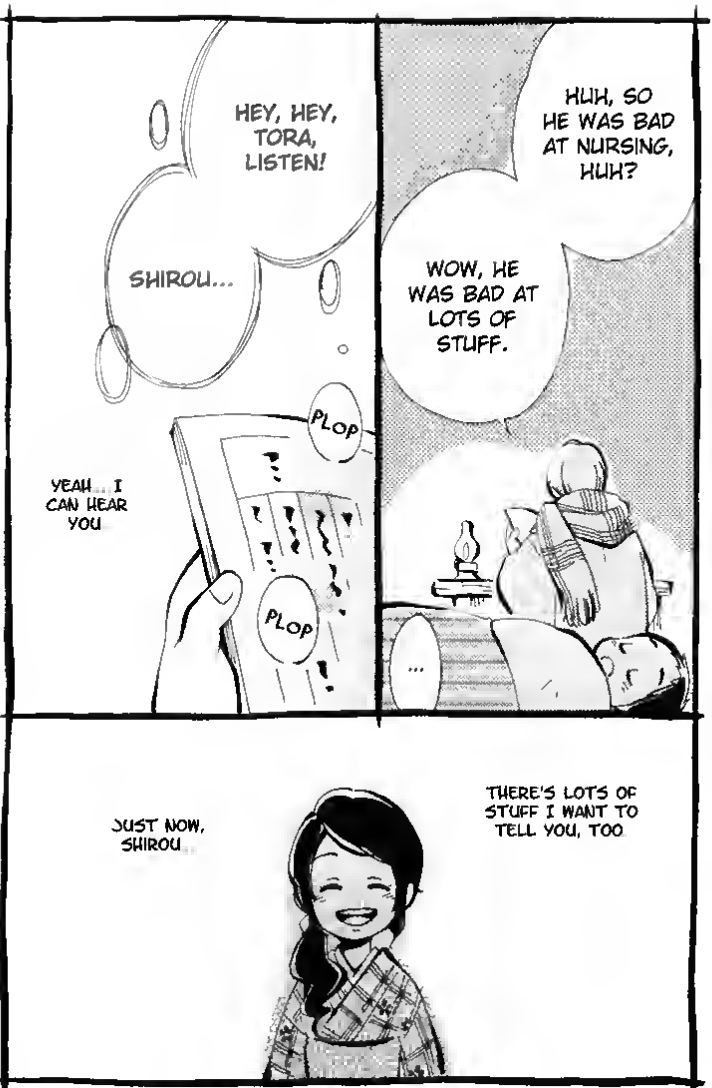
HA HA HA HA HA!
AAAH!
That was close!
WHACK


MARCH 25TH. SHIROU IS FOUR AND A HALF TODAY.

AAAAAH!
UPPSY DAISY!
YOU GO!

LATELY HE'S BEEN ACTING MORE INDEPENDENTLY ON OUR JOURNEYS TOGETHER.
BUT HE'S STILL A SWEET KID SOMETIMES.
I'LL MASSAGE IT LATER!
THAT HURT MY BACK A LITTLE.
I DON'T MIND IF HE TAKES HIS TIME GROWING UP THE REST OF THE WAY.

I KNOW SHE WANTS TO KEEP A DIARY FOR SHIROU.
SHE'S NOT VERY GOOD AT READING OR WRITING.
SHE TREATS ME LIKE I'M COMPLETELY UNINVOLVED.
I MEAN,
HOW LONG IS SHE GOING TO KEEP DOING THIS?
FLAP FLAP
I'D COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THESE THINGS
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY SISTER EVEN TOOK IT UP.


HEY, HEY, TORA, LISTEN!
SHIROU...
PLOP
PLOP
YEAH... I CAN HEAR YOU
HUH, SO HE WAS BAD AT NURSING, HUH?
WOW, HE WAS BAD AT LOTS OF STUFF.
...
JUST NOW, SHIROU...
THERE'S LOTS OF STUFF I WANT TO TELL YOU, TOO

EXTRA STORY 16 - END

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Chichikogusa

Chapter 19

BY TAGAWA MI

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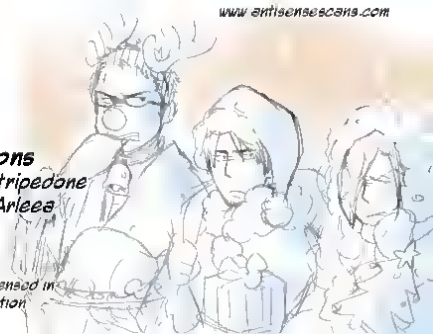
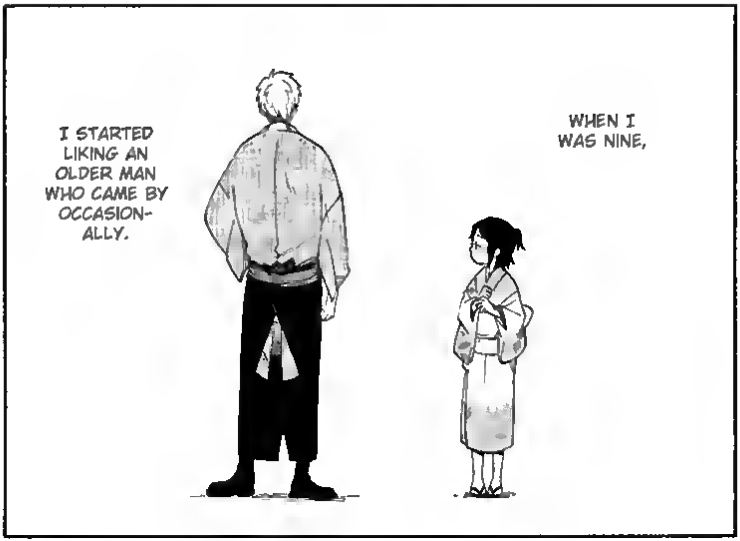
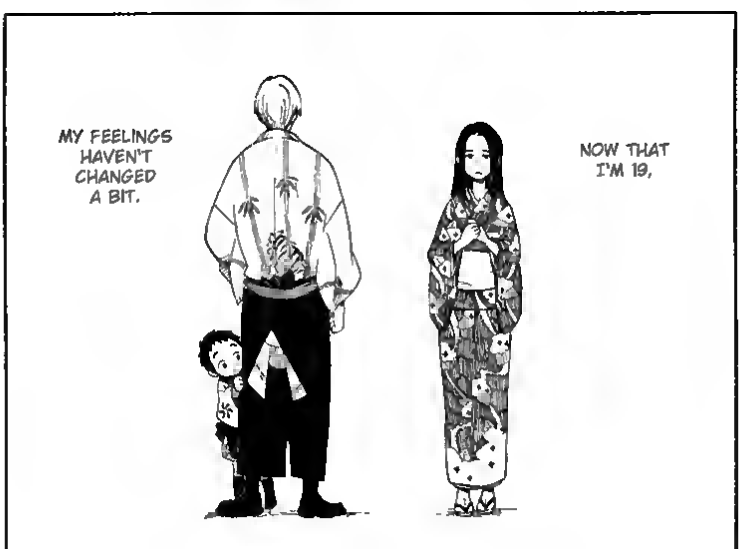



I STARTED LIKING AN OLDER MAN WHO CAME BY OCCASION-ALLY.
WHEN I WAS NINE,


MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
NOW THAT I'M 19,

CHIRP
CHICHIROGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]
AUTHOR: TAKANA AII
FLUTTER
CHAPTER 20:
SPRING AND CONFESSION

MIWA?
THANK YOU.
COO COO

I'M FROM NANAKUSAYA! I BROUGHT YOUR MEDICINE!
...
HELLO, THANK YOU!
UM.
THIS MEDICINE WILL HELP YOUR MOODS BE MORE STA—
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?! HUH?! HUH?!
FWIP
I DON'T REALLY NEED ANY.
WHERE DID PAPA GO? IS IT WORK?
TEACHER CHIHARU.
SIGH
WHY AM I BABYSITTING AGAIN?

JUST GO PLAY OVER THERE, WILL YOU?
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
Shoo
Shoo
...
HE'S... CLEARING UP A MISUNDER-STANDING.
?
I NEED TO PEE...
...!
THIS...
WHAT IS IT NOW?!
TEACHER CHI-HARU...
Why aren't you playing?
FIDGET FIDGET
EESH.
...
TAP TAP

I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM TORAKICHI.
Have some tea
FIRST OF ALL,
TEN DAYS EARLIER
YOU'RE OUR SUBSTITUTE MEDICINE SELLER?
IS MY PUNISHMENT FOR STICKING MY NOSE INTO TORAKICHI'S BUSINESS.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, THIS SWITCH HAS BEEN A LITTLE RELIEVING.
IS IT OKAY IF I CALL YOU CHIHARU?
PLEASE, DON'T BE SO FORMAL.
HUH?
I'D LIKE TO APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE YOU MIGHT HAVE EXPERIENCED BECAUSE OF THIS.
ACHOO
HOPEFULLY THIS WAY OUR HEADSTRONG FOOL OF A DAUGHTER WILL SEE SENSE...
FOR THE MEAN-TIME, I'LL BE SERVING YOU IN TORAKICHI'S PLACE, SO PLEASE BEAR WITH ME.

MISS MIWA...
HELLO THERE. I'M CHIHARU, A MEDICINE-SELLER.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOUR CONDITION FROM MY PRE-DECESSOR.
IT MUST BE VERY TRYING.
I'VE GIVEN YOUR MOTHER SOME MEDI-CINE.
I'LL BE RETURNING IN THREE OR FOUR DAYS,
SO PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...
PLOP
PLOP

WHY...
ISN'T THAT PERSON COMING ANY MORE?
RATTLE
WAIT.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
PLOP
PLOP
FIRST LET'S STOP THAT BLEEDING.
I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT THIS KIND OF THING BUT I NEVER BELIEVED IT.
A YOUNG GIRL FALLING FOR A TRAVELING SALESMAN...
...
MY..

A NOSEBLEED HUH? WELL, DON'T WORRY.
TAP TAP
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SWALLOW ANY BLOOD.
TAKE A SEAT HERE AND PINCH YOUR NOSE CLOSED.
I'LL GO GET A COLD CLOTH.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I'LL GO GET THE...
THIS WILL COOL DOWN YOUR FOREHEAD.
I WANT TO SEE *HIM*.
HUH...?
WHERE IS HE NOW?

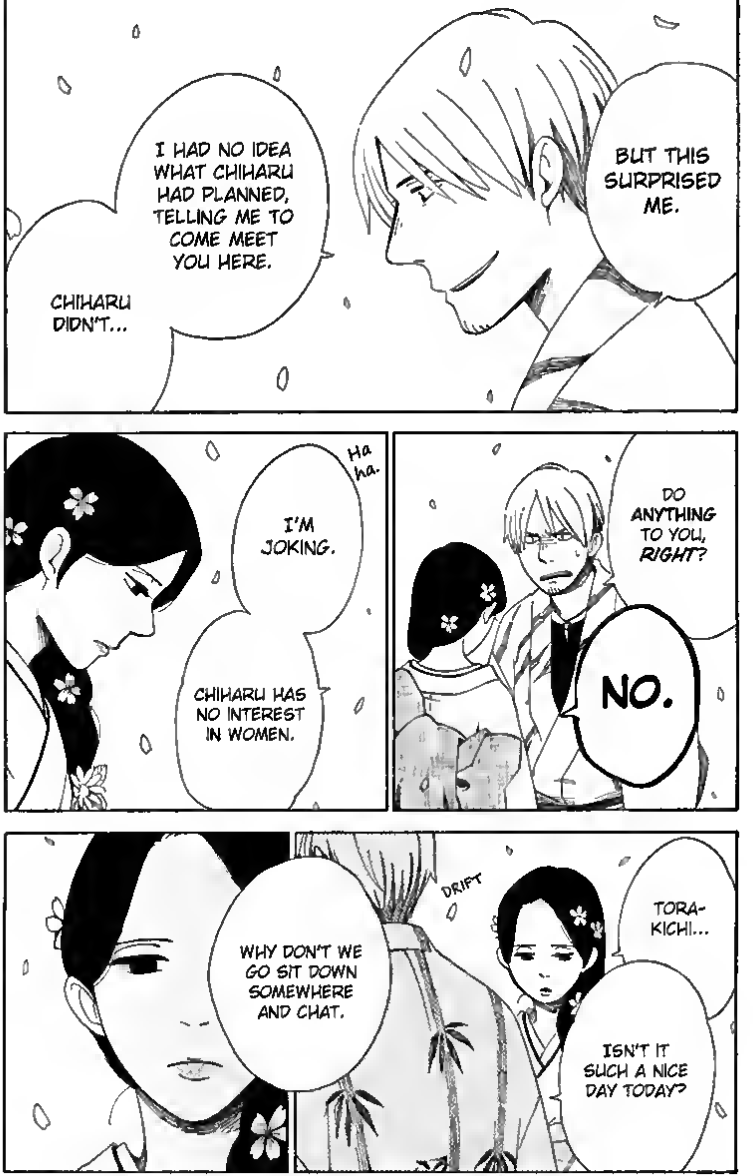
I WANT TO SEE TORA-KICHI.
IF THINGS STAY LIKE THIS, I'LL JUST KEEP CRYING MYSELF TO SLEEP.
IT'S OKAY, THIS PERSON TOLD ME WHERE TO FIND HIM.
HE GOT MARRIED AND HAD A KID ALREADY, DIDN'T HE?! YOU NEED TO GET OVER HIM!
...
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?!
YOU'RE STILL TALKING LIKE THAT?!
WHAM!

I'VE STILL NEVER SAID ANYTHING TO HIM.
I KEEP THINKING IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS WITH US NEVER MEETING AGAIN...
I DON'T WANT THESE FEELINGS I'VE HELD SINCE I WAS 9 TO VANISH WITHOUT ME TELLING HIM ABOUT THEM.
SINCE SHE WAS 9. HUH...
BUT SHE'S NEVER BEEN ABLE TO COMMUNICATE HER FEELINGS, CORRECT?
IN OTHER WORDS, SHE DOESN'T ACTUALLY KNOW HOW HE'D RESPOND.
HOW STEADY OF HER.
I'M SORRY IF THIS IS TOO FORWARD OF ME.

I'M SURE THIS IS THE REAL REASON...
THAT HE ASKED ME IF I COULD TAKE OVER THIS HOUSE-HOLD FOR HIM.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TELL ME THAT TO UNDERSTAND IT.
OW! THIS HURTS, DAMNIT!
WHACK
STOP IT!
WHACK
WHACK
OW, WHA—
MIWA!
UGH.
WHAM!
FWISH

I'VE LIKED HIM ALL THIS TIME...!
BUT EVEN IF HE DOESN'T NEED A PARTNER,
EVEN IF HE'S NOT LOOKING FOR A WOMAN.
I WANT TO AT LEAST TELL HIM.
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT I GO TELL THAT NO-GOOD FOOL THAT YOU WANT TO SEE HIM?
WOBBLE
!
WOBBLE
HEH...

YOU'VE GOT GUTS.
JUST LEAVE ALL THE REST OF THE PREPARATIONS TO ME.
SORRY FOR JUST DUCKING OUT ON YOU LIKE THAT.
YOU JUST WAIT AND SEE!
YOU ASSHOLE, TORAKICHI, STICKING ME WITH THIS PAIN-IN-THE-BUTT KID!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
BY THE TIME WE'RE DONE, YOU'LL BE THE ONE GIVING HIM THE COLD SHOULDER AND LAUGHING. ♡
HA.
SHIVER


BUT THIS SURPRISED ME.
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT CHIHARU HAD PLANNED, TELLING ME TO COME MEET YOU HERE.
CHIHARU DIDN'T...
DO ANYTHING TO YOU, RIGHT?
NO.
Ha ha.
I'M JOKING.
CHIHARU HAS NO INTEREST IN WOMEN.
WHY DON'T WE GO SIT DOWN SOMEWHERE AND CHAT.
DRIFT
TORA-KICHI...
ISN'T IT SUCH A NICE DAY TODAY?

YOU'RE GIVING OFF A VERY DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERE THAN NORMAL.
I GUESS IT'S WHAT YOU DID TO YOUR HAIR
IS IT .. WEIRD?
NO?
IT'S VERY WOMANLY.
I KEEP ASKING MYSELF IF YOU'RE REALLY THE SAME KID I MET WHEN YOU WERE NINE YEARS OLD.
I'VE ALWAYS PERCEIVED YOU THAT WAY, INSIDE.

...
"YOU HAVE SUCH NICE HAIR!"
BUT WE'LL HAVE TO CHANGE THE STYLE.
OW!
BUT WHEN I SAW YOU STANDING THERE IN THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS,
I WAS MOVED.
I'M NOT HAVING ANY DAMN FUN!
GLARE
EVERY LAST BIT OF THIS IS A TOTAL PAIN IN MY ASS, YOU GOT IT?!
UH...
YOU SEEM LIKE YOU'RE HAVING FUN.
HEY, IRYO. WHICH COLOR DO YOU THINK WOULD BE BEST FOR HER LIPS?
CHIRP
CAW!
I like
CHIRP

LIKE ME, FOR INSTANCE.
PEOPLE WITH ONE-SIDED RELATIONSHIPS JUST REALLY TICK ME OFF.
TILT
EVERYBODY FALLS IN LOVE.
I DON'T LOOK LIKE I WOULD BE?
YOU... WERE IN LOVE LIKE THAT?
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
?
BRUSH

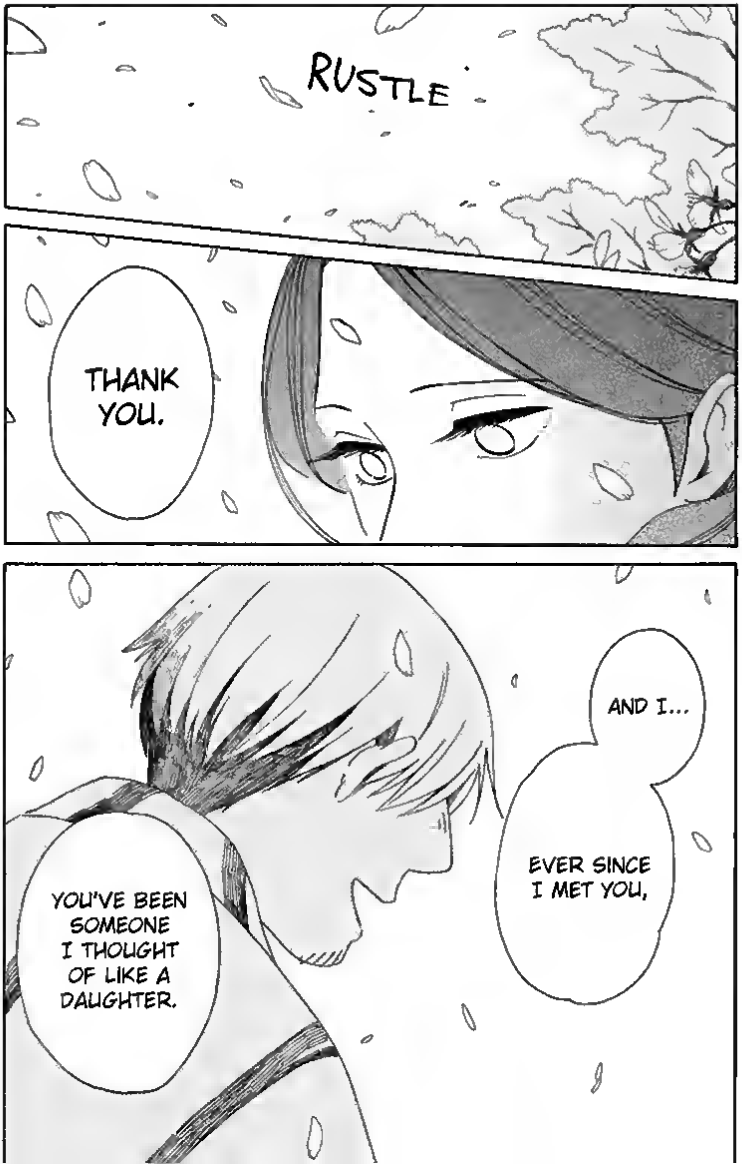
WELL, THAT'S NOT REALLY TRUE.
IT'S ROSE PERFUME.
PER-FUME...?
I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT A LOVE POTION?
Hee hee!
?!
WHAT WAS THAT?
"IF WE PUT IT ON YOUR WRIST, GOOD THINGS'LL HAPPEN."
TORA-KICHI...
[ROSE]
EFFICACY: GOOD SKIN; APHRODISIAC, CALMS THE NERVES, ETCETERA
YEAH. THE SCENT OF ROSES HAS ALL KINDS OF PROPERTIES. LIKE ATTRACTING MEN TO YOU AND HOLDING THEM PRISONER TO YOUR CHARM. ♡
This stuff is pretty expen-sive.

I...
SHAKE
SHAKE
CLENCH

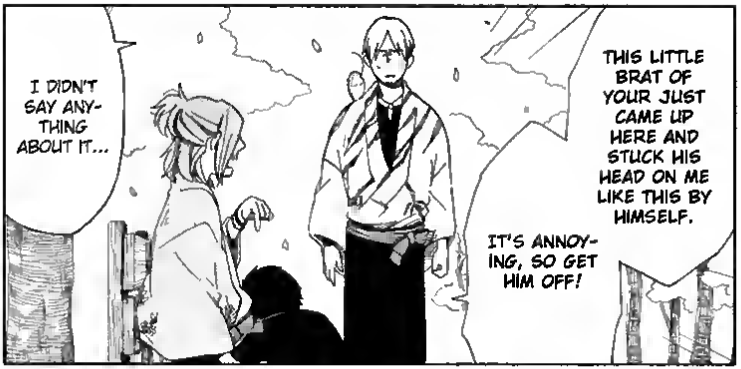
THE REASON I CAME HERE...
IS BECAUSE I HAD SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU.

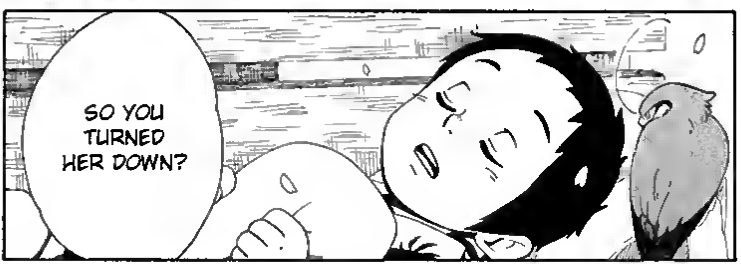
I...

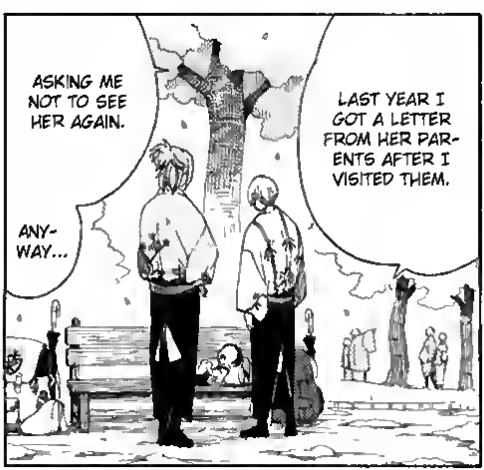
EVER SINCE THE FIRST TIME WE MET, I'VE...
ALWAYS HAD FEELINGS FOR YOU.


RUSTLE
THANK YOU.
AND I...
EVER SINCE I MET YOU,
YOU'VE BEEN SOMEONE I THOUGHT OF LIKE A DAUGHTER.

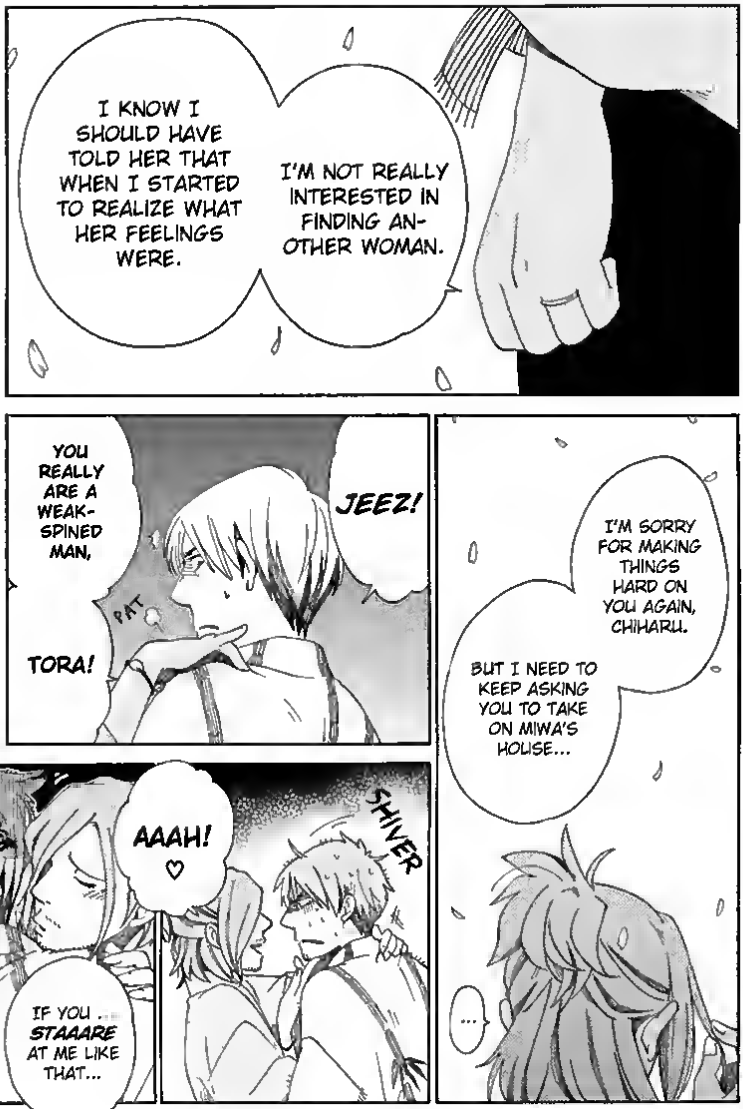
ALWAYS ...
EVEN NOW,
AND AFTER.
I'M SORRY.
DON'T GO GETTIN' THE WRONG IDEA.


I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING ABOUT IT...
THIS LITTLE BRAT OF YOUR JUST CAME UP HERE AND STUCK HIS HEAD ON ME LIKE THIS BY HIMSELF.
IT'S ANNOY-ING, SO GET HIM OFF!


SO YOU TURNED HER DOWN?

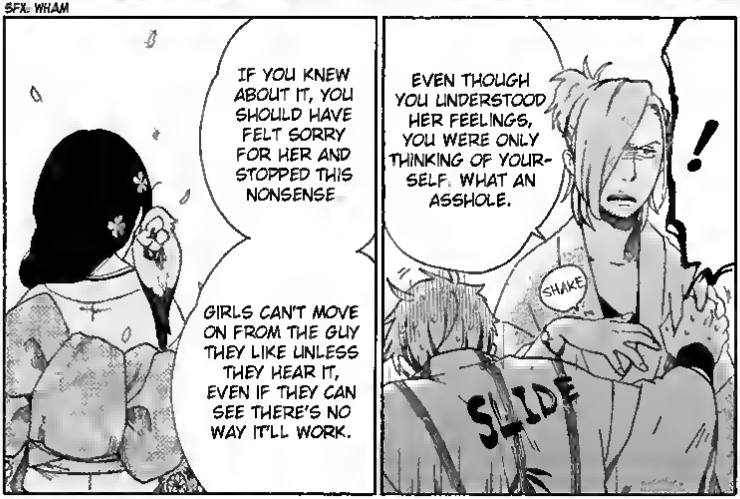

ASKING ME NOT TO SEE HER AGAIN.
ANY-WAY...
LAST YEAR I GOT A LETTER FROM HER PAR-ENTS AFTER I VISITED THEM.

I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT ME,
BUT...


I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TOLD HER THAT WHEN I STARTED TO REALIZE WHAT HER FEELINGS WERE.
I'M NOT REALLY INTERESTED IN FINDING ANOTHER WOMAN.
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING THINGS HARD ON YOU AGAIN, CHIHARU.
BUT I NEED TO KEEP ASKING YOU TO TAKE ON MIWA'S HOUSE...
...
JEEZ!
YOU REALLY ARE A WEAK-SPINED MAN,
PAT
TORA!
SHIVER
AAAH! ♡
SHUDDER
IF YOU ... STAAARE AT ME LIKE THAT...

JERK!
GGG!

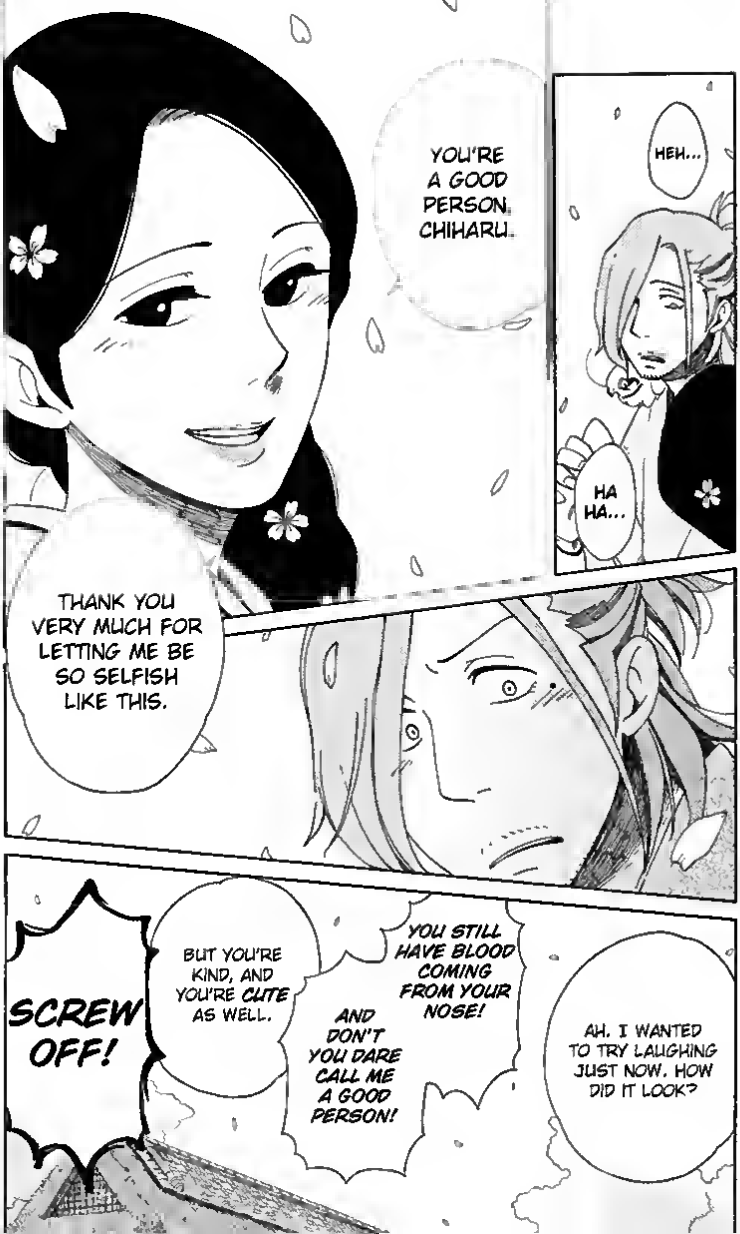
SFX. WHAM

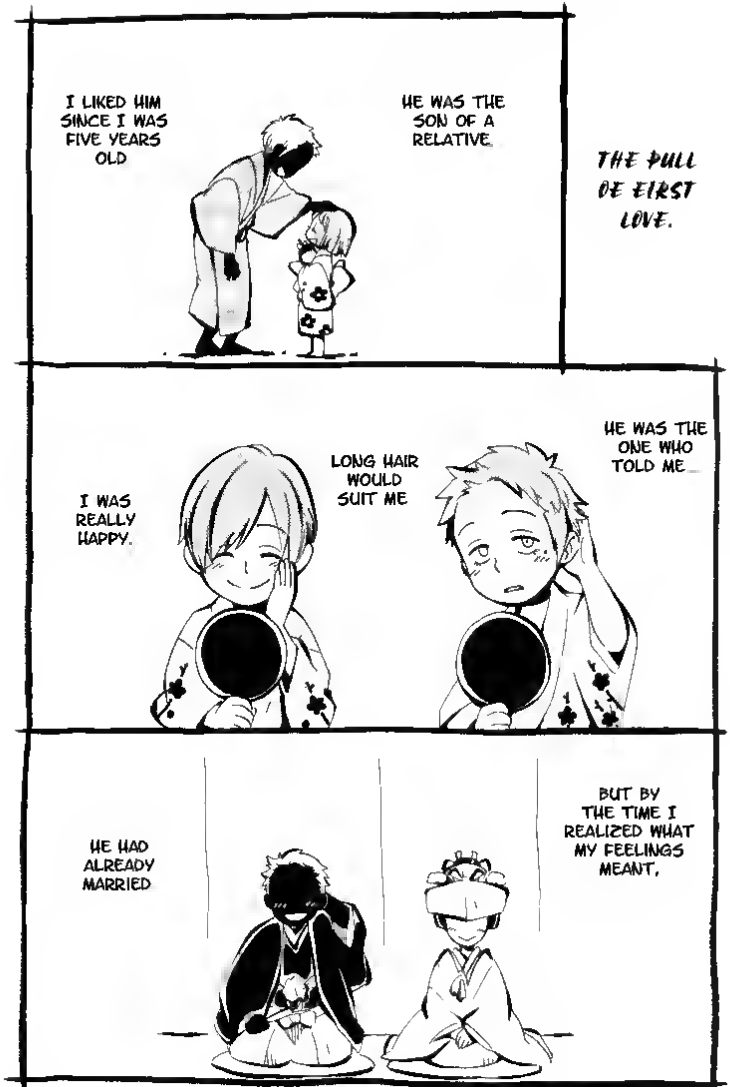

IF YOU KNEW ABOUT IT, YOU SHOULD HAVE FELT SORRY FOR HER AND STOPPED THIS NONSENSE
GIRLS CAN'T MOVE ON FROM THE GUY THEY LIKE UNLESS THEY HEAR IT, EVEN IF THEY CAN SEE THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL WORK.
EVEN THOUGH YOU UNDERSTOOD HER FEELINGS, YOU WERE ONLY THINKING OF YOURSELF. WHAT AN ASSHOLE.
!
SHAKE
SLIDE

THIS IS...
POKE POKE
YOUR PUNISHMENT FOR THE TIME YOU STOLE FROM HER. ♡
...!
I AM SOOOOOO HUNGRY!
SOME DUMPLINGS, PLEASE!
THAT ROSE SCENT IS ALSO SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU GET RID OF YOUR FEELINGS, BUT I GUESS IT DIDN'T WORK.
CHIHARU, I...

SPLAT
SHOVE
YOUR NOSE-BLEED HASN'T STOPPED, RIGHT?
YES YES, JUST KEEP LOOKING DOWN.
I feel so refreshed!
YOU SHOULD THANK ME! THAT JERK DIDN'T THINK A THING ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW! ♡
I WAS KICKED ASIDE, THOUGH...
I PUNISHED HIM SEVERELY, SO YOU CAN REST EASY.
WHAT?
I EVEN PRACTICED MY SMILING...

IF THAT'S THE ONLY PROBLEM, YOU CAN JUST FIND SOME OTHER GUY TO USE IT ON.
BUT YOU'D BE BETTER OFF NOT FALLING FOR ANY MORE MERCHANTS.
...
BUT I DIDN'T GET TO USE IT...
I'M THE MOST WORTHLESS OF ALL.
DON'T YOU GO FALLING FOR ME.
SLIP
INCLUDE YOU, CHIHARU?
OF COURSE IT DOES!
JERKS LIKE THAT ALWAYS LIVE ONLY ON THE SURFACE. THERE'S NOTHING INSIDE.
DOES THAT...
ALTHOUGH I GUESS IT IS NICE THAT YOU'D ONLY HAVE TO SEE THEM ONCE A YEAR.


YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON, CHIHARU.
HEH...
HA HA...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LETTING ME BE SO SELFISH LIKE THIS.
SCREW OFF!
BUT YOU'RE KIND, AND YOU'RE CUTE AS WELL.
AND DON'T YOU DARE CALL ME A GOOD PERSON!
YOU STILL HAVE BLOOD COMING FROM YOUR NOSE!
AH. I WANTED TO TRY LAUGHING JUST NOW. HOW DID IT LOOK?


I LIKED HIM SINCE I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD
HE WAS THE SON OF A RELATIVE.
THE PULL OF FIRST LOVE.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
LONG HAIR WOULD SUIT ME
HE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD ME...
HE HAD ALREADY MARRIED
BUT BY THE TIME I REALIZED WHAT MY FEELINGS MEANT,

EVEN WHEN I MEET HIM,
SINCE HE'S A RELATIVE, I STILL SEE HIM OFTEN
HE ALWAYS SEEMS HAPPY TO SEE ME, AND ASKS FOR NEWS ABOUT MY FAMILY AND STUFF
HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHY I HAVEN'T CUT MY HAIR
I CAN'T BE THAT OPEN-HEARTED ANY MORE
IT'S SAD I NEVER TOLD HIM WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE.

EXTRA STORY 17 - END

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Chichikogusa

Chapter 20

BY TAGAWA MI

Antisense Scanslations

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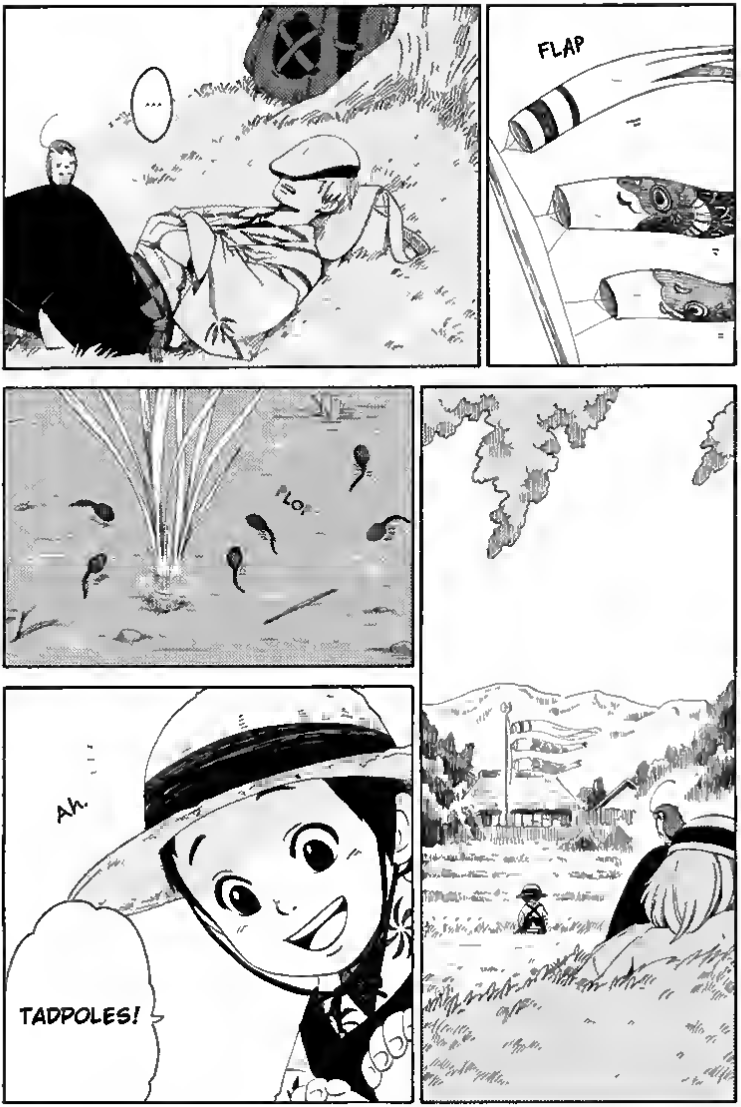
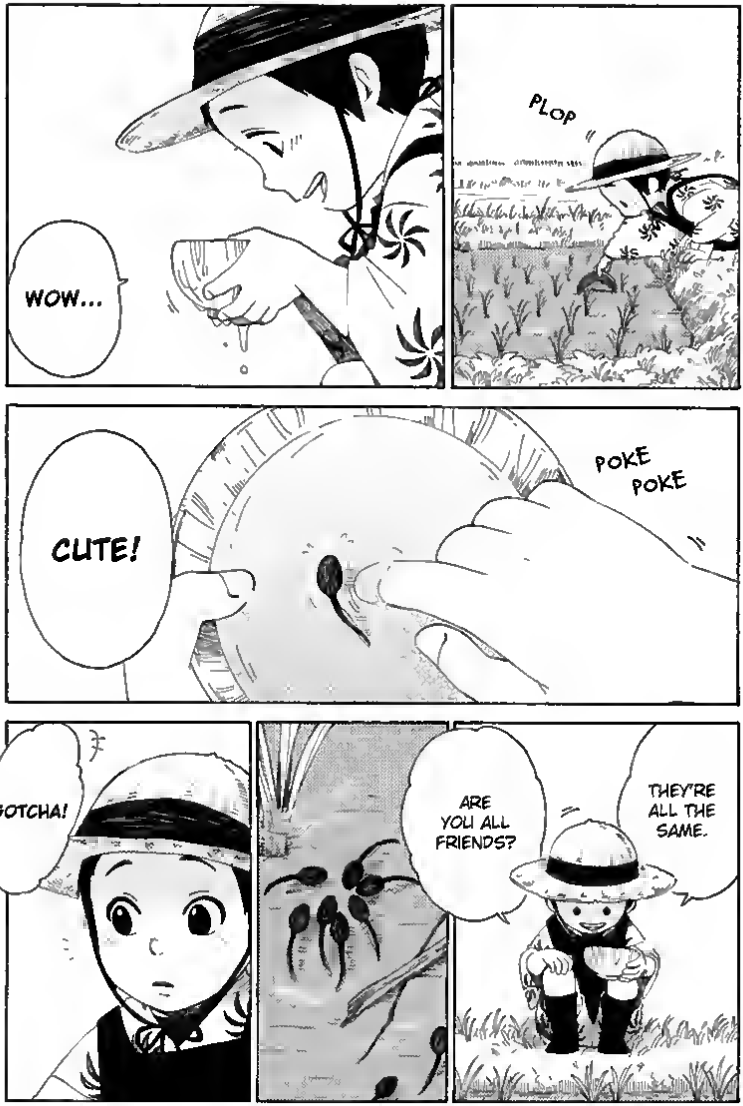
LET'S GO OVER THERE.

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 21:
SWEET FLAG AND HELMET


...
FLAP
FLO
Ah.
TADPOLES!

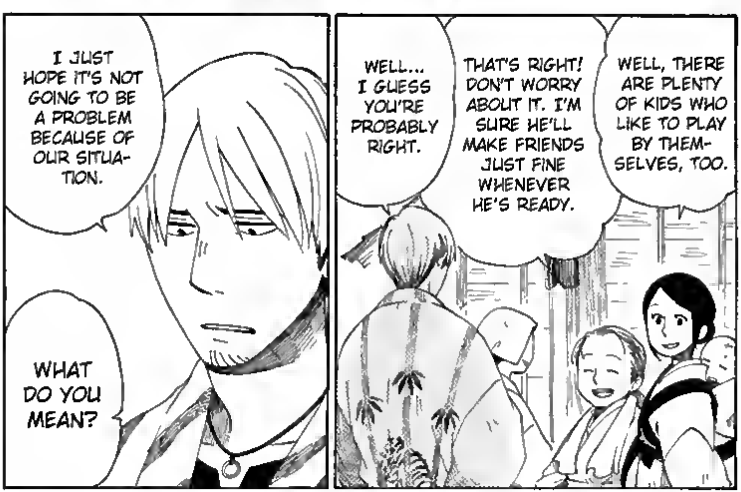

WOW...
PLOP
CUTE!
POKE
POKE
GOTCHA!
ARE YOU ALL FRIENDS?
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME.

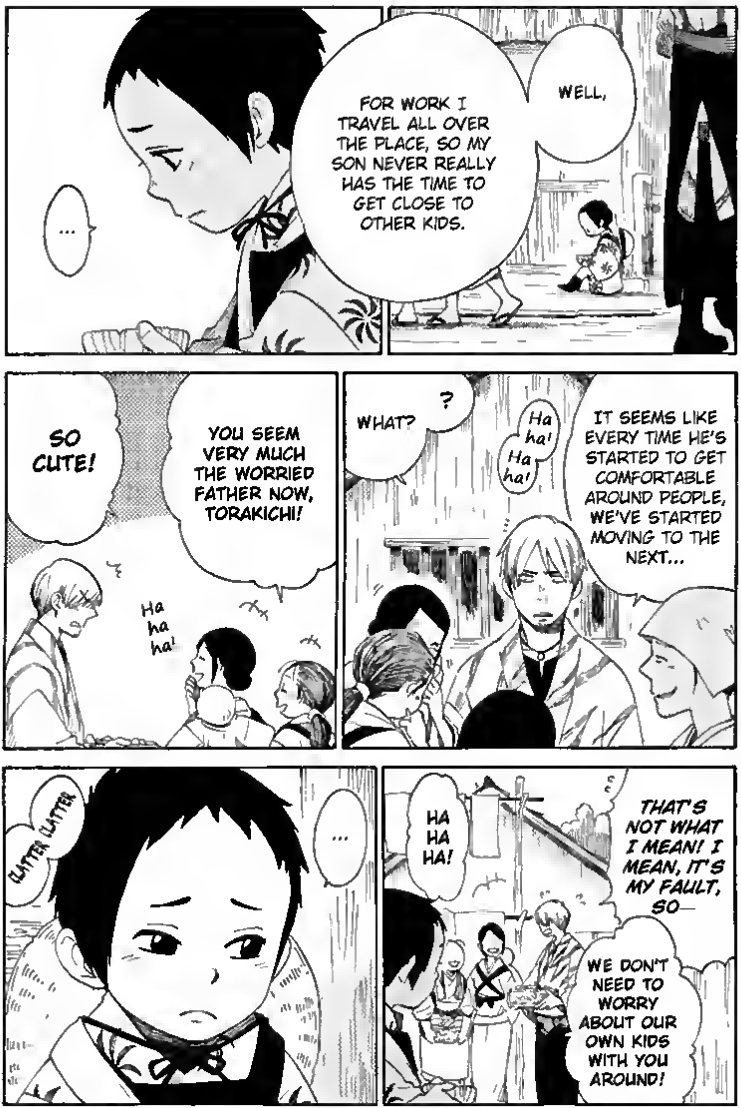
...
HA HA HA!
NOW YOU'RE THE ONI, CHI!
RUN AWAY!
EEK!
I STEPPED ON YOUR SHADOW, CHI!
AH. I FELL ASLEEP.
SCRATCH
A...
ACHOO!
Eeek!
HM?

WHY DON'T YOU GO PLAY WITH THE OTHERS?
HUH?
LOOK, LOOK, I CAUGHT A TADPOLE!
PAPA!
I SEE.
NOBODY KNOWS EACH OTHER TO START WITH.
I DON'T KNOW THEM...
BUT...
BUT...
...
WITH THEM.
YOU WANT TO, RIGHT?

IF YOU TELL THEM YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS, IT'S EASY, RIGHT?
JUST GO OVER AND SAY HELLO, LIKE YOU DO TO MY CUSTOMERS.
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO OVER WITH YOU?
SHAKE
SHAKE
...
YOU'RE BUSY, RIGHT, PAPA?!
I DON'T NEED TO DO THAT SORT OF STUFF!
SPIN
LET'S GET BACK TO WORK!

DOESN'T HE WANT TO PLAY WITH OTHER KIDS?
Ha ha ha!
CLATTER CLATTER


I JUST HOPE IT'S NOT GOING TO BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF OUR SITUATION.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WELL... I GUESS YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
THAT'S RIGHT! DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I'M SURE HE'LL MAKE FRIENDS JUST FINE WHENEVER HE'S READY.
WELL, THERE ARE PLENTY OF KIDS WHO LIKE TO PLAY BY THEMSELVES, TOO.


...
FOR WORK I TRAVEL ALL OVER THE PLACE, SO MY SON NEVER REALLY HAS THE TIME TO GET CLOSE TO OTHER KIDS.
WELL,
SO CUTE!
YOU SEEM VERY MUCH THE WORRIED FATHER NOW, TORAKICHI!
Ha ha ha!
WHAT?
Ha ha!
Ha ha!
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERY TIME HE'S STARTED TO GET COMFORTABLE AROUND PEOPLE, WE'VE STARTED MOVING TO THE NEXT...
CLATTER CLATTER
...
HA HA HA!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! I MEAN, IT'S MY FAULT, SO—
WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT OUR OWN KIDS WITH YOU AROUND!

HURRY UP!
Yeah!
...
HEEEY!
SLI
...
YEAH.
WHERE WE ALWAYS DO?
TAKE AND THE OTHERS WANNA PLAY "BASE."
DOES ANYBODY NEED SWEET FLAG?
SWEET FLAG!
GRIP

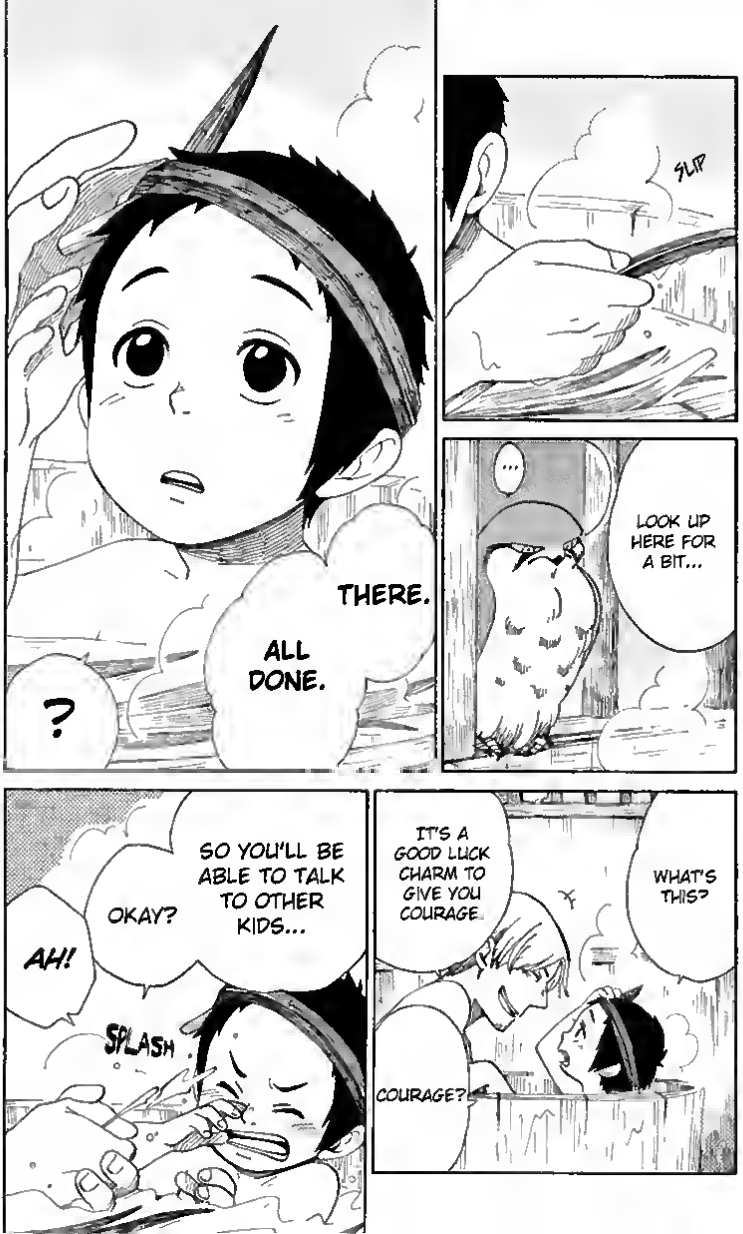
...
WAFT
THANK YOU.
SWEET FLAG! WHITE IRIS...
UM. GOOD FOR LOSS OF APPETITE AND INDI-GESTION AND...
OKAY, OKAY! HURRY UP AND GET IN THE TUB!
WHY DID YOU PUT IT IN THE BATH?
IT'S BOYS' DAY TODAY, AFTER ALL.
BOYS' DAY?

YEAH, BOYS' DAY!
THE HOLIDAY.
EVER SINCE ANCIENT TIMES, IT'S BEEN A DAY TO CELEBRATE MALE CHILDREN'S GOOD HEALTH, AND GIVE WISHES FOR THEM TO GROW INTO GOOD MEN.
[ACORUS CALAMUS] SWEET FLAG
EFFICACY: USEFUL IN CASES OF DECREASED APPETITE, NEURALGA, AND SO ON MEDICINAL PROPERTIES ARE MOSTLY FOUND IN ITS UNDERGROUND ROOT SYSTEMS.
I PUT THE SWEET FLAG INTO THE BATH...
SO YOU CAN GROW UP WELL*.
GROW UP WELL?
YOU KNOW, SO YOU'LL BE BIG AND STRONG AND HEALTHY.
!
WHAT IS IT?
?
...

*TRANSLATOR'S NOTE: THIS FOLK BELIEF PRESUMABLY STEMS FROM THE FACT THAT "SHOUBU" (SWEET FLAG) AND "JOUBU" (WELL) SOUND ALMOST IDENTICAL

ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ME BECAUSE I'M A WEAKLING AND CAN'T MAKE FRIENDS...?
AM I... A WEAKLING?
HUH?
AND I DON'T THINK THAT THE REASON YOU DON'T MAKE FRIENDS IS BECAUSE YOU'RE WEAK.
THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I MEANT.
BUT!
...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

BUT...
...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M BAD AT TALKING.
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT IT TOO? NOT MAKING FRIENDS?
THEY SAID THAT IF I COULDN'T TALK RIGHT I WAS STILL A BABY AND THEY WOULDN'T PLAY WITH ME.
ALL THE KIDS DID WHEN I LIVED WITH AUNTIE.
WHO SAID YOU WERE BAD AT THAT?


THERE.
ALL DONE.
?
SLIP
...
LOOK UP HERE FOR A BIT...
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S A GOOD LUCK CHARM TO GIVE YOU COURAGE.
COURAGE?
SO YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TALK TO OTHER KIDS...
OKAY?
AH!
SPLASH

SPLASH
SPLASH
I'LL GET YOU!
AND YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT BEING WEAK?!
EEEEEE!
SPLASH
AH!
SPLASH
YOU!
TAKE THIS!
OH YEAH?
RUB
IT'S OKAY.
RUB
TUG
JUST HAVE CONFIDENCE.
I'M SURE YOU'LL GET USED TO TALKING TO OTHER KIDS TOO.
I MEAN, YOU GOT REALLY GOOD AT GREETING MY CUSTOMERS, RIGHT?

YO.
TORA-KICHI!
AH, IT'S THE MEDICINE SELLER!
YEAH.
SHUT IT!
IS YOUR KID STILL WITH YOU?
THAT SUCKS!
CLENCH
HA HA HA!
I'M SURE YOUR MOTHERS DO PLENTY OF THAT ALREADY.
Ha ha ha!
OR YOUR SCOLDING!
WE DON'T NEED YUCKY MEDICINE!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER

TUG
GRIN
GULP
GO AHEAD.

WHERE SHOULD WE PLAY TODAY?
PEEK
IS EVERYONE HERE?
YEAH!
CHATTER CHATTER

FIDGET FIDGET

BY THE SHRINE!
WHERE, WHERE?
YESTERDAY I SAW A NEAT PLACE.

CAW
CAWW
CAW
FLINCH
CAWWW

CAW
CAW
CAW
?
WHAT THE?
FLINCH
AH! HE CAME LAST YEAR TOO. SUCH A CRYBABY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
IT'S THE MEDICINE SELLER'S KID.
WHO'S THAT?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
HUPH
HUH?

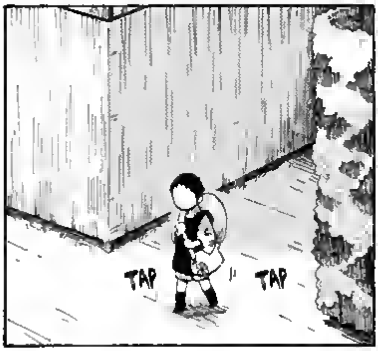
I WANT...
TO COME TOO!
AH
UM...
I...
I...
HUH...?

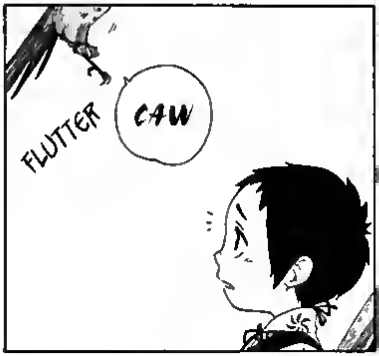
YOU MEAN TO PLAY WITH US?
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HE LOOKS TOO SMALL TO ME...
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
AH.
UM. I'M FOUR.
FOUR?
HEY, YOU.
YES?
!
SEE? THERE'S NO WAY, RIGHT?
WE'RE GOING INTO THE FOREST AND STUFF.
...

BUT.
YOU CAN COME ALONG IF YOU WANT.
YOU GOTTA KEEP UP IF YOU WANT TO BE ONE OF US.
GASP
AH.
TAP
!
LET'S GO!
DASH

THIS WAY! COME ON!
...
HURRY UP!
PANT PANT
PEEK
HA HA HA HA!
CLATTER CLATTER

PANT
PANT


TAP
TAP


FLUTTER
CAW

...
PANT
PANT

MAKE SURE...
YOU GIVE THAT TO YOUR SON HE'LL BE PLEASED!
Ha Ha
RUSTLE
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
WELL THEN, I'LL CALL AGAIN ANOTHER TIME.
THOSE KIDS EARLIER WERE KIND OF A LITTLE OLD FOR HIM.
I bet they ran off.
HOW HAS YOUR STOMACH BEEN LATELY?
HM?
DOES IT HURT AT ALL?
CAW
WHERE DID SHIROU GET OFF TO?

!
RUSTLE
SHIROU?!
FLINCH
WELL THEN, JUST GIVE THIS MEDICINE A TRY!
...
SO YOU WERE PLAYING WITH MOM AND IEJI, HUH?

SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SORRY.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO PUSH YOU TO PLAY WITH THOSE BOYS.
THEY SAID...
SHIROU COULD PLAY WITH THEM!
HUH?
NOD
...
BUT THEY RAN TOO FAST...
SO I LOST THEM. THAT'S ALL...

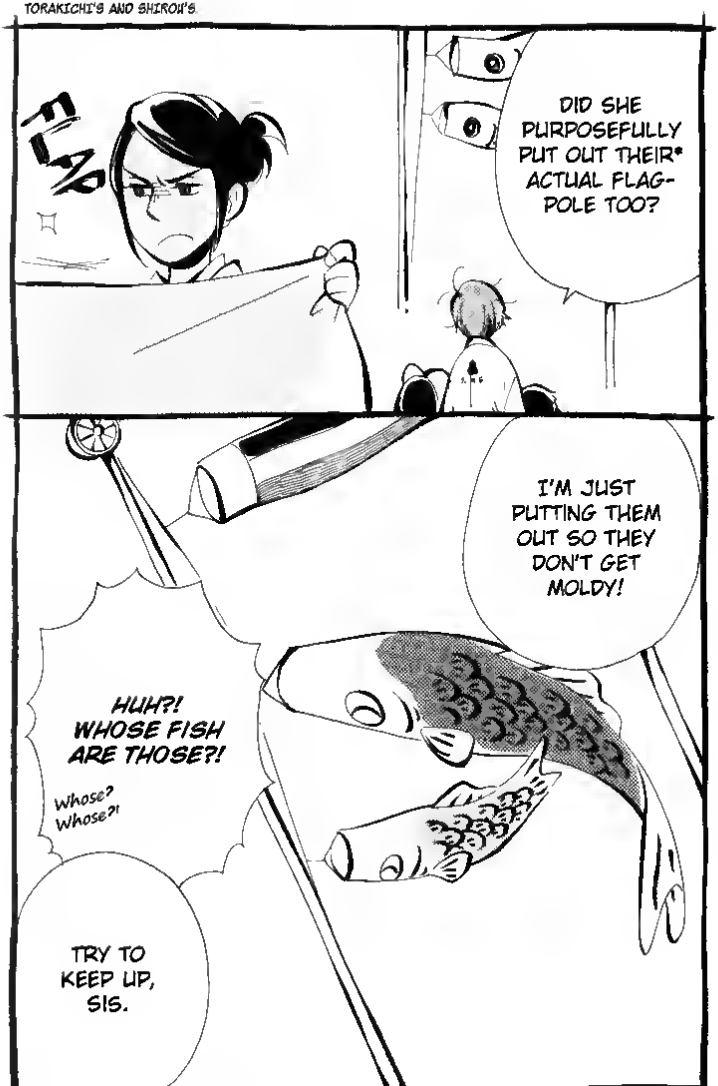
FOOTNOTE IT'S TRADITIONAL TO MAKE HELMETS ON BOY'S DAY

SHOW IT TO MOM, TOO.
WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
TURN
IT'S A BIT SMALL FOR YOU, HUH?
THE HELMET.
MY CUSTOMER EARLIER GAVE IT TO ME.
SHIORI,
DON'T YOU THINK SHIROU WAS BRAVE TO GO TALK TO THOSE OLDER KIDS LIKE THAT?

YOU DID A GOOD JOB.
IF YOU CAN STAY BRAVE LIKE THAT, YOU'LL DEFINITELY MAKE A FRIEND ONE DAY.
...
GULP
YEAH.

← FATHER (ME)
← SANAKO
← KOUTA
KIDS
← SHIROU
BUT FOR SOME REASON..
UNTIL LAST YEAR, WE FLEW A POLE OF FISH FOR BOY'S DAY.
THERE'S TWO OF THEM!
Why why why?!
THIS YEAR ..
HUH?!

FOOTNOTE: HE MEANS TORAKICHI'S AND SHIROU'S.


FLAP
DID SHE PURPOSEFULLY PUT OUT THEIR* ACTUAL FLAG-POLE TOO?
I'M JUST PUTTING THEM OUT SO THEY DON'T GET MOLDY!
HUH?! WHOSE FISH ARE THOSE?!
Whose? Whose?!
TRY TO KEEP UP, SIS.

EXTRA STORY 11 - END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 21

BY TAGAWA MI

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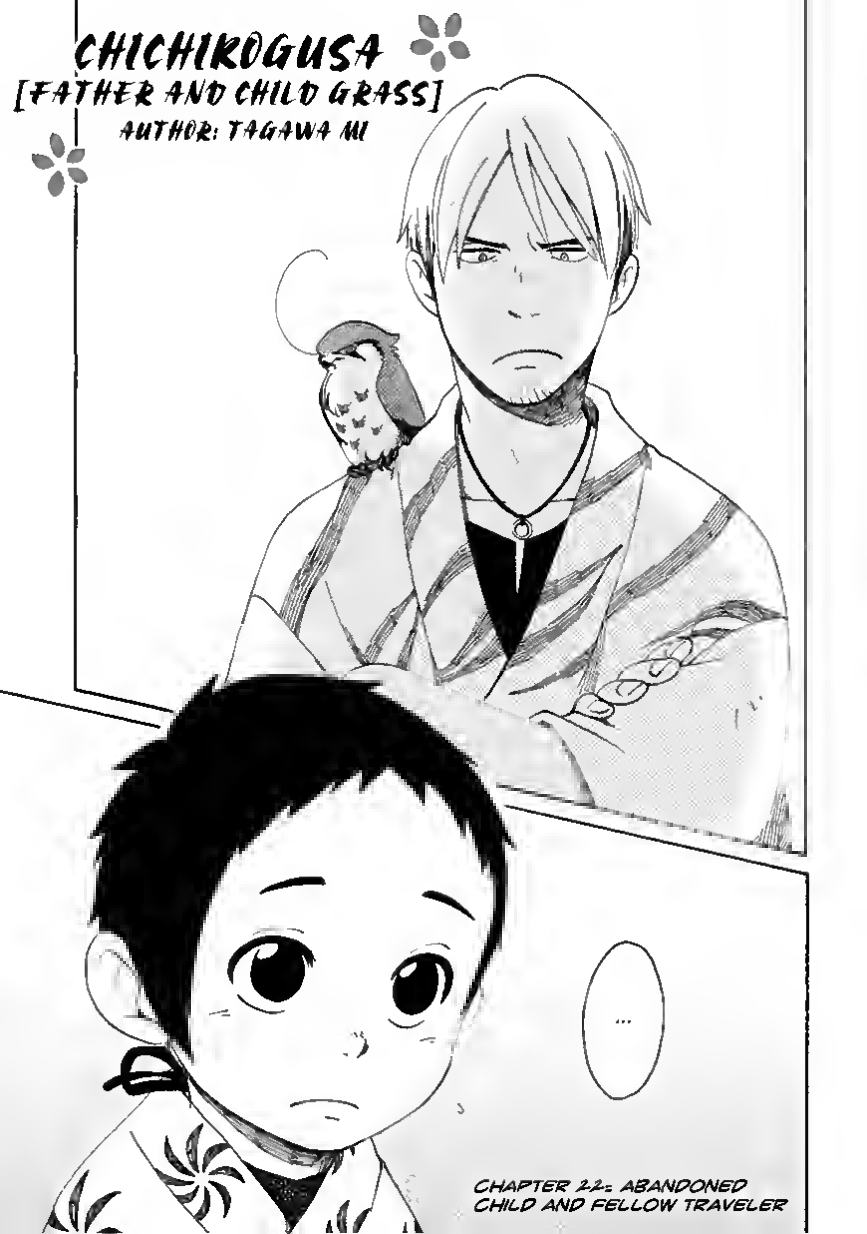
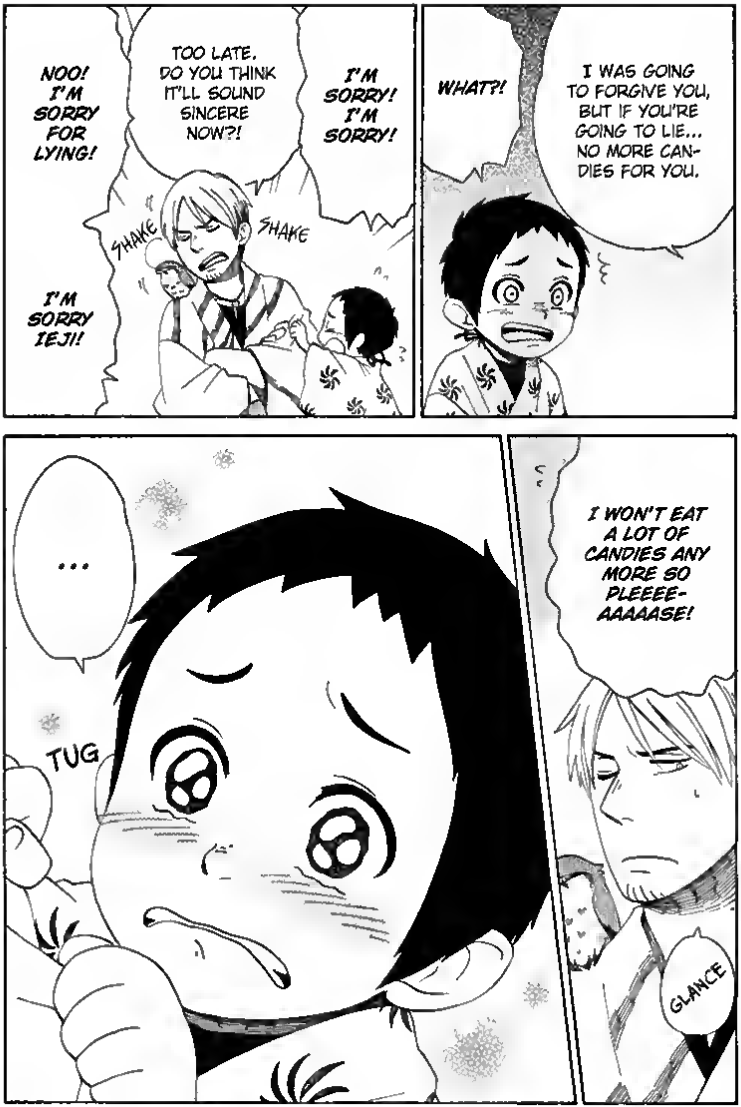
CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI



CHAPTER 22: ABANDONED CHILD AND FELLOW TRAVELER

SHIROU, HOW MANY OF THESE CANDIES HAVE YOU BEEN EATING EVERY DAY?
TWO...
REALLY?
SO HOW COME ALL TWENTY ARE GONE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S ONLY BEEN FIVE DAYS?
AH.
UM.
SHAKE
M...
MAYBE IEJI ATE THEM...?
CAW!
OKAY.


NOO! I'M SORRY FOR LYING!
TOO LATE. DO YOU THINK IT'LL SOUND SINCERE NOW?!
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
SHAKE
SHAKE
I'M SORRY IEJI!
WHAT?!
I WAS GOING TO FORGIVE YOU, BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO LIE... NO MORE CANDIES FOR YOU.
...
TUG
I WON'T EAT A LOT OF CANDIES ANY MORE SO PLEEEE-AAAAASE!
GLANCE

YEAH!
I'LL BE WORKING RIGHT HERE, OKAY! DON'T LOSE THAT MONEY!
DASH
YEAH!
DON'T RUN! ARE YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY BUYING THOSE CANDIES BY YOURSELF?!
HA HA HA HA!
DASH
WHACK
AH!
SIGH
I GUESS I SHOULD BE MORE STRICT...
?!
DASH
GO LOOK AFTER HIM, IEJI.
JEEZ... I'M TOO SOFT.
FLAP
CHIRP
DROOP

WHACK
ARE YOU HUR...
I'M SORRY.
SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?!
HEY!
HM ...?
YOU THINK YOU CAN RUN AWAY FROM ME?!
AH.
TAP
COME BACK HERE, THROW-AWAY CHILD!

AHHHH! IT'S THE MEDI-CINE SELLER!
ARE YOU THREE BULLYING AGAIN?!
CLATTER
!
UH.
HE'S ONLY GOOD AT RUNNING BECAUSE HE WAS RAISED TO LEAVE...
WHACK
WHAT? DID YOU HURT YOURSELF AGAIN SOME-WHERE?
WHAT A RELIEF. YOU'VE COME AT THE PER-FECT TIME.
NO, NOT THAT.
IS THAT YOU, TORA-KICHI?!
AN ABAN-DONED CHILD?!
Lemme go!

ABOUT A YEAR AGO, A GIRL NAMED HANAKO CAME HERE.
SHE AND HER CHILD.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE ASKED ME WHAT TO DO.
SHE SAID HER MOTHER DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES, AND THAT SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THE CHILD.
THAT'S ...
SHE SAID IT WAS HARD TO LIVE AS A SINGLE MOTHER, BUT SHE HAD TO RUN AWAY WHEN HER MOTHER WAS ABOUT TO MARRY HER OFF TO SOMEONE NEW.
ALONG WITH HER CHILD, OF COURSE.
HEY.
YOU'VE BEEN AROUND A BIT, RIGHT? WHAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO SEND SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
HUH?
DO YOU THINK SHE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH?

WHO'S GOING TO TAKE HIM?
THERE'S ONE PRETTY CLOSE TO HERE, ACTUALLY.
WHAT?
I KNEW IT! WHERE?!
UH.
I DO KNOW A FEW TEMPLES THAT TAKE IN ORPHANS, BUT...
HUH?
I WAS GOING TO HAVE YOU DO IT.
WHY WOULD I DO SOMETHING THAT AGGRAV...
DON'T DECIDE BY YOURSELF!
ONE OR TWO MAKES NO DIFFERENCE! YOU CAN JUST GO TO THE TEMPLE LIKE THAT.
NO NO NO NO NO NO. DON'T JOKE AROUND! I'VE ALREADY GOT ONE KID, I DON'T NEED...
Thanks!

THAT'S HOW HE IS...
...
IS THAT YOU, KOMA?!
DASH

FLOMP
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THIS, RIGHT?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
...
YOU'RE KOMAKICHI, RIGHT?
SNATCH
SLIP

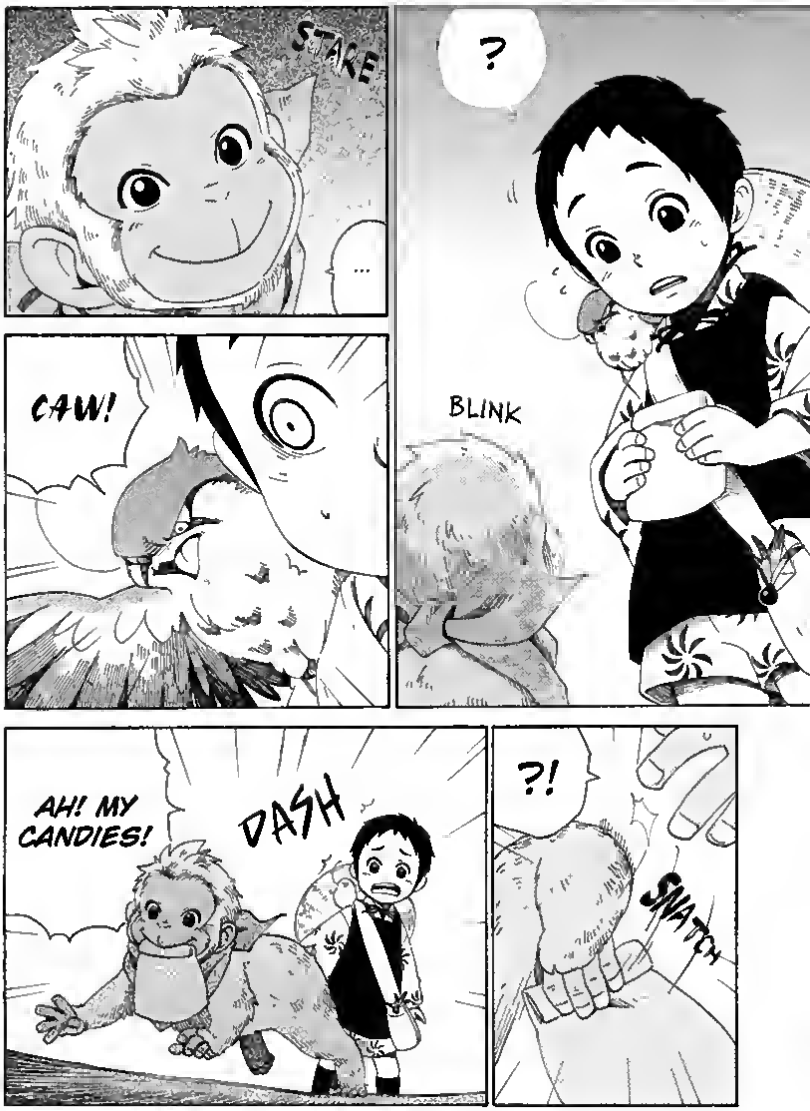
I'M TORAKICHI. I'M A TRAVELING MEDICINE SELLER.
OUR NAMES ARE ALIKE.
Ha ha
I HAVE A SON ABOUT YOUR AGE, TOO.
HIS NAME'S SHIROU.
CLENCH
TAKE CARE OF HIM AND SHIROU BOTH...
I CAN'T...
THIS IS NO GOOD.
SIGH

HERE ARE YOUR CANDIES.
Yay!
So tasty!
...
LET'S SHARE THEM!
THANKS!
TAP TAP
RUSTLE
AH.

IT'S TASTY!
#MPH
WOW!
CLAP
CLAP
SORRY ABOUT EARLIER. I'LL GIVE YOU A CANDY.
IEJI!
FWIP
#MPH!
TOSS
UP YOU GO!
IT'S SO CUTE.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
Yeah! Awesome!

BOOM
SPIN
TADA!
GRIN

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
OOH!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
...
IT'S A MONKEY...!
WOW.
EE EE!
!
STARE...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MURMUR
MURMUR


STARE
...
?
BLINK
CAW!
AH! MY CANDIES!
DASH
?!
SNATCH

GET BACK DOWN HERE!
HEY, ENISHI!
SCOOT SCOOT
!
AH!
Aaaaah!
POUR
DON'T STEAL FOOD! YOU LISTENING?!

SFX: FLAP
CAW!
CAW!
CAW!
CAW!
FLINCH
CHOMP
CHOMP
CAWW!
HOP
EE EE!
HM?
...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
THAT BIRD...

SPARKLE
SPARKLE
OKAY...?
I'LL GO BUY YOU SOME NEW CANDIES, OKAY? I'M REALLY SORRY!
THAT MONKEY HAS NO MANNERS.
AHHH! I'M SO SORRY, KID.
IF ONLY YOU'D BEEN BORN TWENTY—UH, FIFTEEN YEARS SOONER, WE WOULD DEFINITELY HAVE ENDED UP TOGETHER!
YOU'RE GONNA BE SUCH A HANDSOME MAN!
FLINCH
SQUEEZE
OH! ♡
BLUSH

GASP
OOPS. THAT'S NOT GOOD.
EEEEEEEK! WHERE'D THIS BIRD AND MONKEY COME FROM?!
EE EE EE!
CAW!
CAW!
SMAAASH
I BET HE MUST BE AS HANDSOME AS Y...
HEY, IS YOUR FATHER NEARBY?
GLANCE
GLANCE
GRIN
WAIT HERE A BIT! I'LL DEFINITELY GET YOU CANDIES TO REPLACE THE ONES MY MONKEY STOLE.
JUST STAY HERE!
SHIROU?!
FLAP FLAP
BLINK
GET BACK HERE, ENISH!!

DID YOU BUY YOUR CANDIES?
AND WHERE DID IEJI GO?
AH. UM.
I TOLD YOU TO COME STRAIGHT BACK AFTER BUYING YOUR CANDIES. I WAS WORRIED.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY WOULD A MONKEY BE...?
IT'S THE TRUTH!
HUH?
A MONKEY STOLE THEM AND ATE THEM ALL UP!

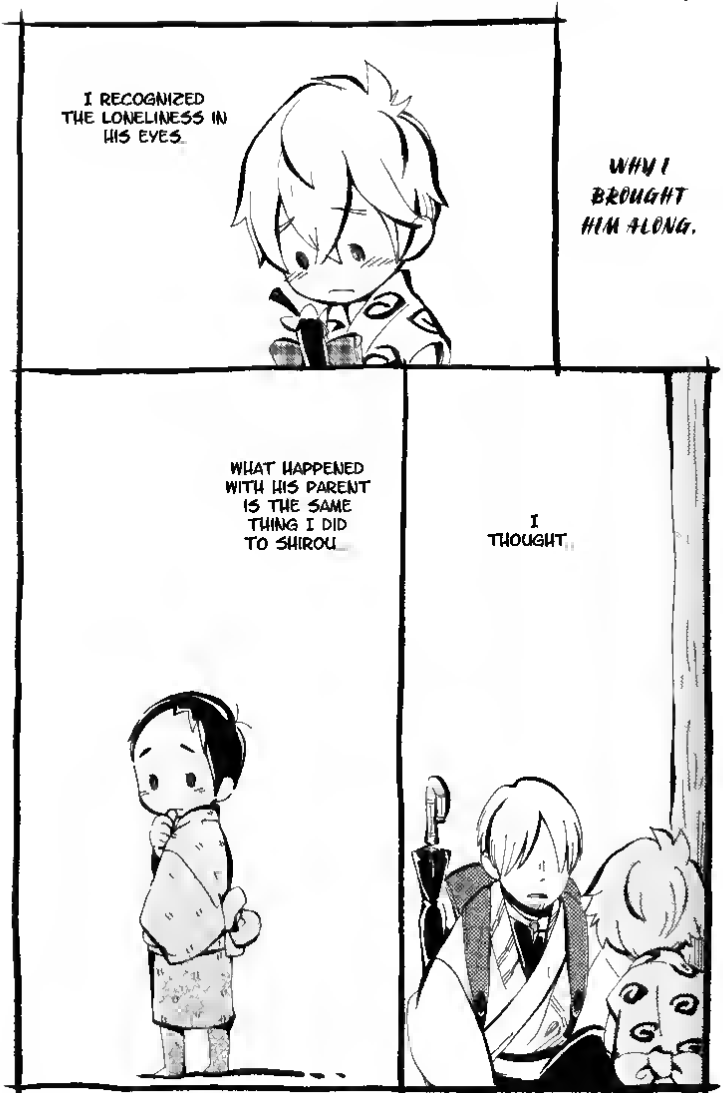
OVER THERE...
...
WHERE IS THERE A LADY?
THE LADY SAID SHE'D BUY ME SOME MORE.
NO! I'M TELLING—
IS THAT YOU LOST YOUR MONEY OR SOMETHING AND WEREN'T ABLE TO BUY THEM?
SO WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING HERE...
FLINCH
SHIROU!

PAPA HATES IT WHEN YOU LIE LIKE THIS.
WHY ARE YOU LYING?
CAN'T YOU TELL THE TRUTH?
NO, I'M NOT, IT'S..
PUNCH!
...

AH. I FORGOT TO INTRO-DUCE YOU.
SHIROU,
THIS IS KOMAKICHI. HE'S ABOUT YOUR AGE.
!
SLIDE
IT'S OKAY, KOMA. COME HERE.

THIS IS SHIROU, THE SON I TOLD YOU ABOUT EARLIER.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE COMING ALONG WITH US FOR A LITTLE WHILE. JUST THE THREE OF US.
OKAY?

I HOPE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO GET ALONG WELL WITH ONE ANOTHER.
WHAT...?


I RECOGNIZED THE LONELINESS IN HIS EYES.
WHY I BROUGHT HIM ALONG.
WHAT HAPPENED WITH HIS PARENT IS THE SAME THING I DID TO SHIROU...
I THOUGHT...

WANT TO COME WITH US?
WE WON'T BE LOOKING FOR YOUR MOM,
BUT WE'LL FIND YOU A NEW HOME SOMEWHERE.
...
I COULDN'T HELP IT.
HIS TINY HAND, SO WARM AGAINST MINE, WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS SHIROU'S.

EXTRA STORY 19 - END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 22

BY TAGAWA MI

Antisense Scanslations

Translations/Edit by Thestripedone

Cleaning/Typesetting by Arleea

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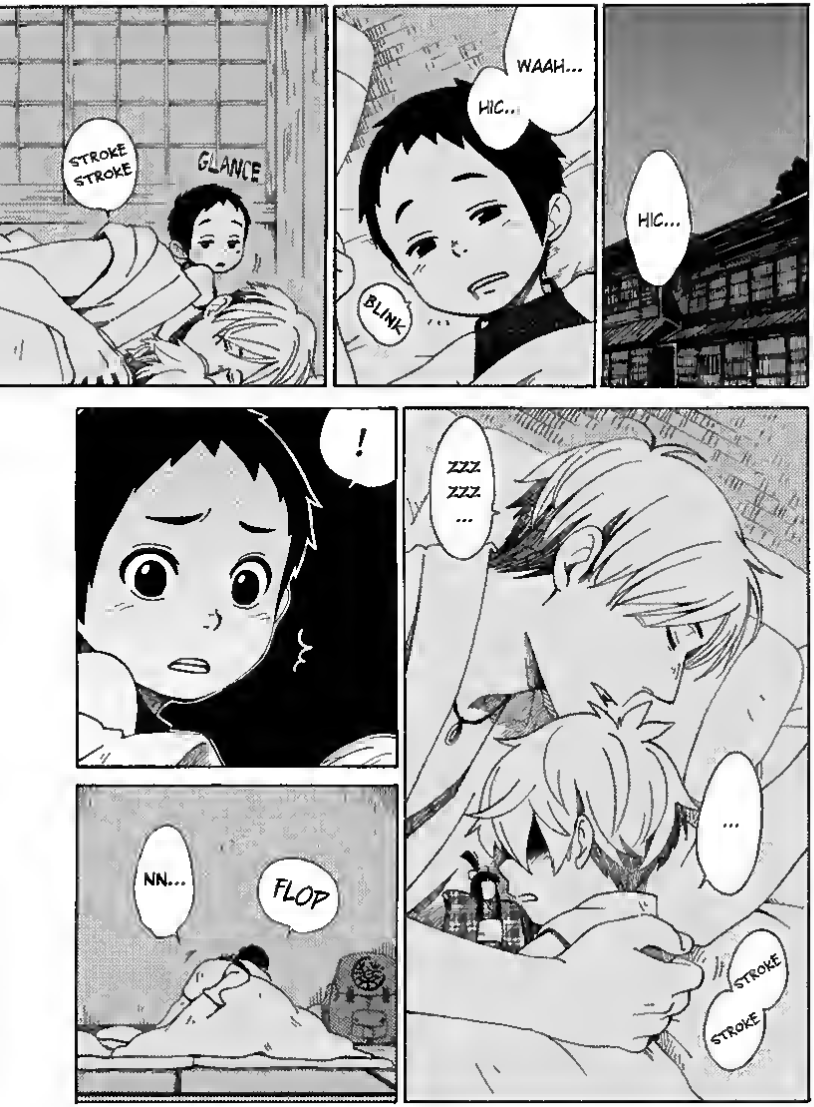
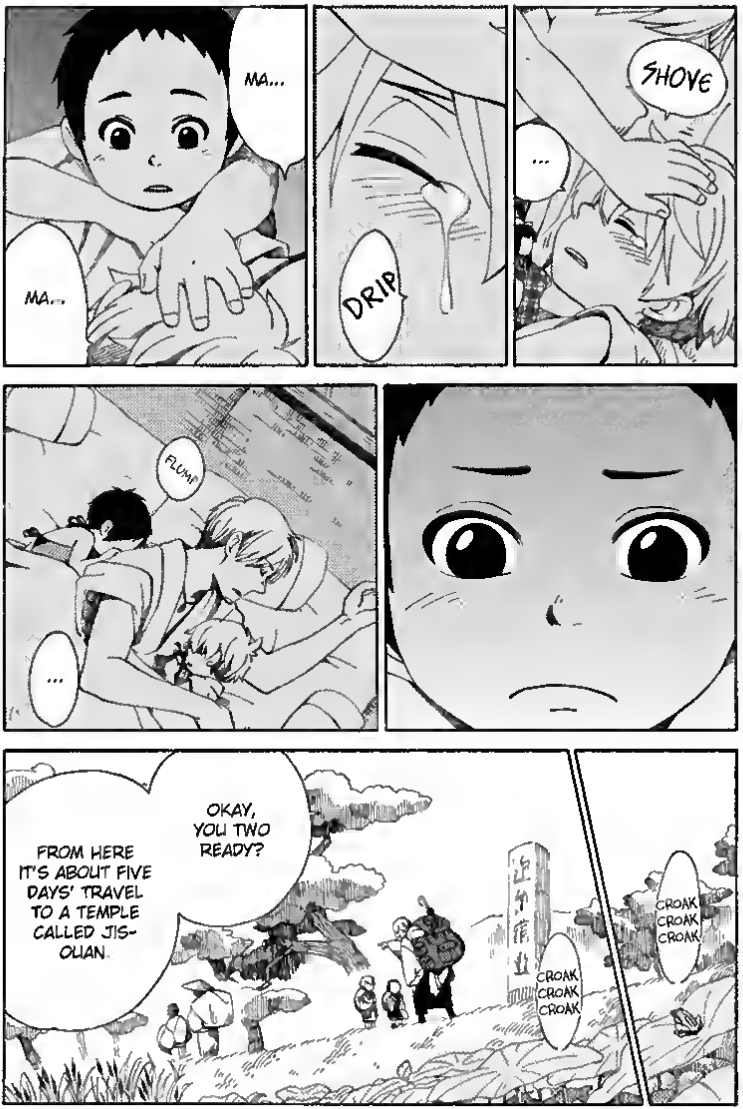
SHIROU,
KOMA'S LIKE YOU. HE DOESN'T HAVE HIS MAMA ANY MORE.
HUH?
HE DOESN'T HAVE A DAD EITHER, OR AN AUNT OR A UNCLE.
HE'S ALL ALONE.
I NEED YOU TO BE NICE TO HIM, OKAY?

CHAPTER 23: SHIROU AND KOMA


STROKE
STROKE
GLANCE
WAAH...
HIC...
BLINK
HIC...
!
ZZZ
ZZZ
...
...
STROKE
STROKE
NN...
FLOP


MA...
MA...
DRIP
...
SHOVE
FLUMP
...
FROM HERE IT'S ABOUT FIVE DAYS' TRAVEL TO A TEMPLE CALLED JIS-OLIAN.
OKAY, YOU TWO READY?
CROAK CROAK CROAK
CROAK CROAK CROAK

PAT
DO YOUR BEST KEEPING UP, OKAY?
WELL,
FLINCH
KOMA,
YOU DIDN'T SLEEP TOO WELL LAST NIGHT. YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO DO BETTER TODAY?
I SEE.
FLINCH
PLOP
...
TUG
NOW WHERE DID THAT IEJI GET OFF TO? I WAS GOING TO SEND HER TO THE TEMPLE.

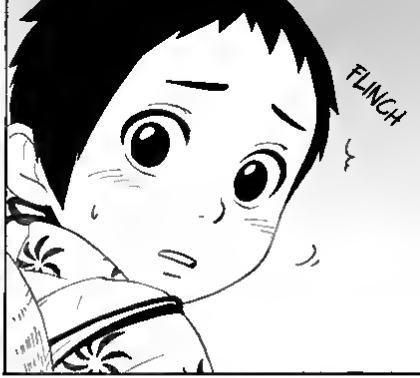
TAP
TAP
...
SHIROU.
STRETCH
...
FIDGET

CLOMP
SMACK
...
BLUSH
YOU WANT TO HOLD MY HAND?
WHAT,
OKAY.
GLARE
WE'LL TAKE A LITTLE BREAK SOON.
WORK HARD UNTIL THEN.

I DID BUY THEM!
YOU WEREN'T ABLE TO BUY THEM.
AH. RIGHT,
THAT MONKEY TOOK THEM...
SHIROU, YOU HAVE CANDIES, RIGHT? WHY DON'T YOU SHARE THEM?
WE'LL REST HERE.
YOU'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THAT?
AH!
HEY!
DASH
I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T LIKE IT WHEN YOU LIE.

Come out!
Hey, Shirou!
RUSTLE
OH WELL. HE'S LIKE THAT SOMETIMES...
...
...
MUTTER
MUTTER
PEEK
SNAP

DUCK


FLINCH

STARE
...

?!
RUSH

SPIN

ARE YOU A GIRL?!

HEY.
WHY DO YOU CARRY AROUND THAT DOLL?
FLINCH

?!
BLUSH
SFX- SHOVE
WHACK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
OW...
THUD
YOU'RE SO...

I HATE YOU!!
JUST GO AWAY!
GASP
AH...
YOU...
SHOULD JUST GO AWAY SOMEWHERE...

AH...
YOU'RE BOTH SO CUTE! YOU'LL BE SO HANDSOME WHEN YOU'RE OLDER! ♡
SMILE
SMILE
I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D FIND TWO HANDSOME YOUNG MEN LIKE THIS.
MY MY.
?!
HUH?
WERE YOU FIGH...
WHAT'S GOING ON? I HEARD SOMEONE SHOUTING.
AH, THERE YOU ARE
Hup!

WHAM
AH! IT'S TORAKICHI!!
HUH?!
DASH
IS THAT YOU, SHOU?!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S BEEN A WHILE! WHAT, THREE YEARS?!
...
I'D HEARD YOU WERE DRAGGING A KID AROUND, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT COULD REALLY BE TRUE.
BUT THESE TWO? YOU SLY DOG!
I'd only heard one
No
I ONLY HAVE THE ONE SON.
AND WHAT THE HECK'S WITH THAT MONKEY, ANYWAY?
AH.
SORRY FOR THE LATE INTRODUCTION!
I'M SHOU, A TRAVELING PERFORMER. BIG PALS WITH THIS GUY FROM WAY BACK!
GRAB
STARE
...
I GUESS WHAT YOU'D CALL HIS "FORMER WOMAN"?
NICE TO MEET-CHA! ☆
HEY!

RUSTLE
HERE
CANDIES FOR YOUR KID...
AND YOUR PARTNER.
CALM DOWN, I'M JUST JOKING AROUND.
"FORMER WOMAN"?!
ANYWAY, I BROUGHT SOME STUFF WITH ME FOR YOU GUYS...
GRARRR
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THE TRUTH IS...
HUH?
SHIROU'S CANDIES?
SHE GOT INTO A BIT OF A SCRAP, SO I CARRIED HER SAFELY.
IEJI?!
HOW DID SHE GET HURT?!
SHIROU'S CANDY!

THAT'S RIGHT.
YESTERDAY, ENISHI...
AH, THAT'S THIS MONKEY...
HE ATE YOUR KID'S CANDIES ALL UP.
...
THEN IEJI GOT MAD AT ENISHI AND CHASED HIM.
WHILE I WAS TRYING TO CATCH THEM, IEJI'S WING GOT HURT.
I'M REALLY SORRY!
LOOK, YOU APOLO-GIZE TOO!
BOTH OF YOU!
EEE EE...
GROVEL
GROVEL
...
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, SHIROU!
HUH?!
SFX BOW

AS A PARENT, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS LISTEN TO WHAT YOUR KIDS SAY!
Ha ha ha!
I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY WAY A MONKEY REALLY HAD EATEN THEM.
HA HA HA HA!
HERE.
TALKING TO MY OWN CHILD LIKE THAT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKING.
YOU'RE SO RIGHT.
I'M SORRY, SHIROU.
YOUR DAD IS SUCH A...

SHIROU...
YOU CAN HAVE A CANDY!
PAPA, IT HURTS!
HA HA HA, YOU GUYS ARE SO SWEET!
...
I'M SO SORRY! SO SORRY!
YOU'RE SO GREAT!
EEE!
HUG

KOMA?!
SPIN
HEY, KOMA...
STOMP STOMP
YOU AND KOMA EAT THEM, OKAY?
THANKS, SHIROU. PAPA DOESN'T REALLY NEED A CANDY.
DASH
...
HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU...
SPLASH
AAAHH!

?!
SPLASH
WHOOSH
SPLISH
HE'S FINE, TORA-KICHI!
TAP
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! THAT'S DANGER-OUS!
C'MERE!
SPLASH
SPLASH

Oops.
DON'T YOU START NOW TOO!
HEY, SHIROU!
SPLISH SPLISH
HUH?
SPLISH
...
SORRY!
DRIP

I'M SORRY FOR SAYING YOU WERE A GIRL EARLIER!
SHIROU KNOWS THE TRUTH!
THIS...
IS YOUR MAMA, RIGHT?!

MAMA HAS TO GO OUT FOR A WHILE,
SO YOU CAN PLAY WITH THIS DOLL...
DROP
DRO
AH...
!
SHIROU'S MAMA IS A JIZOU STATUE, SO SHIROU UNDERSTANDS!
KOMA... THIS IS FOR YOU.

WAAAAAH!
WAAAAAAH!

TO JISOUAN?
THAT'S RIGHT. WE'RE TAKING KOMA THERE NOW.
WOW, THE PLACE I GREW UP, HUH?
SO THAT MEANS HE'S ALSO...?
YEAH.
AAAAAAAH!

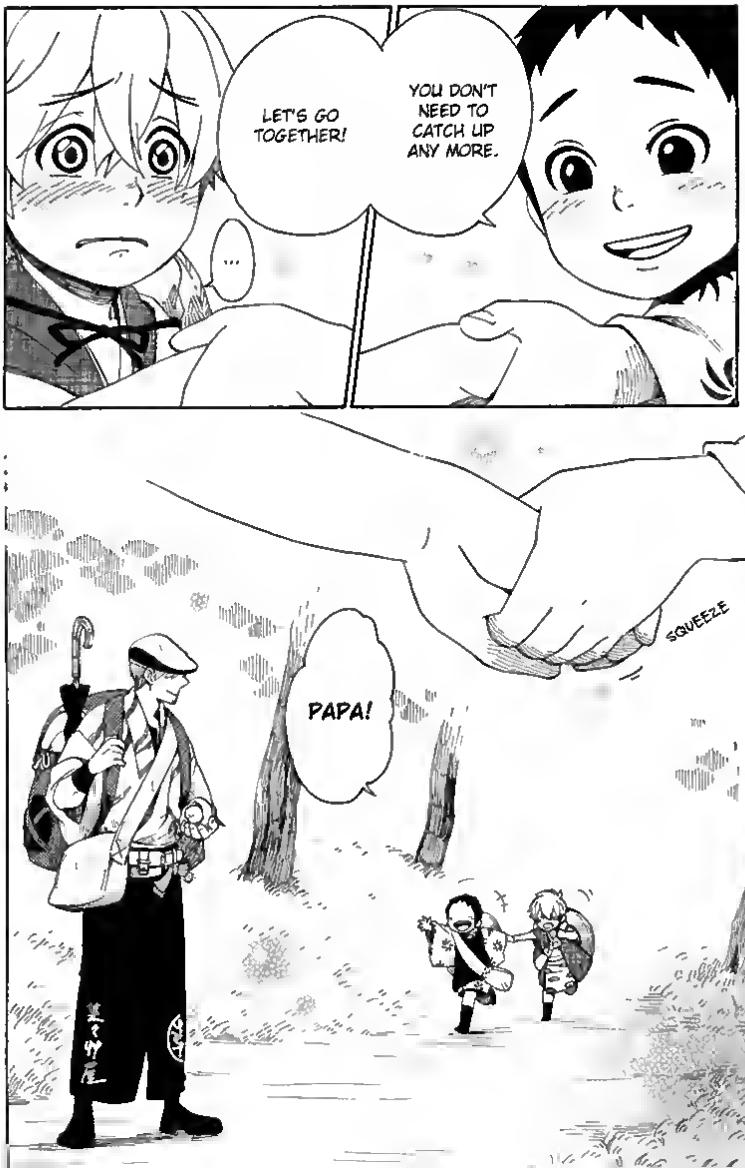
SINCE HE'S ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS SHIROU, I FELT BAD.
WE'RE GOING TO ASK THE TEMPLE TO RAISE HIM IN THE USUAL WAY.
...
HIS PARENTS ABANDONED HIM.
HUH?
DO YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HIM THERE FOR YOU INSTEAD?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN THE OLD PLACE.
I SEE...
RUSTLE
I WANT TO LET THE TWO OF THEM SPEND SOME TIME TOGETHER.
AH...
THAT'S OKAY.

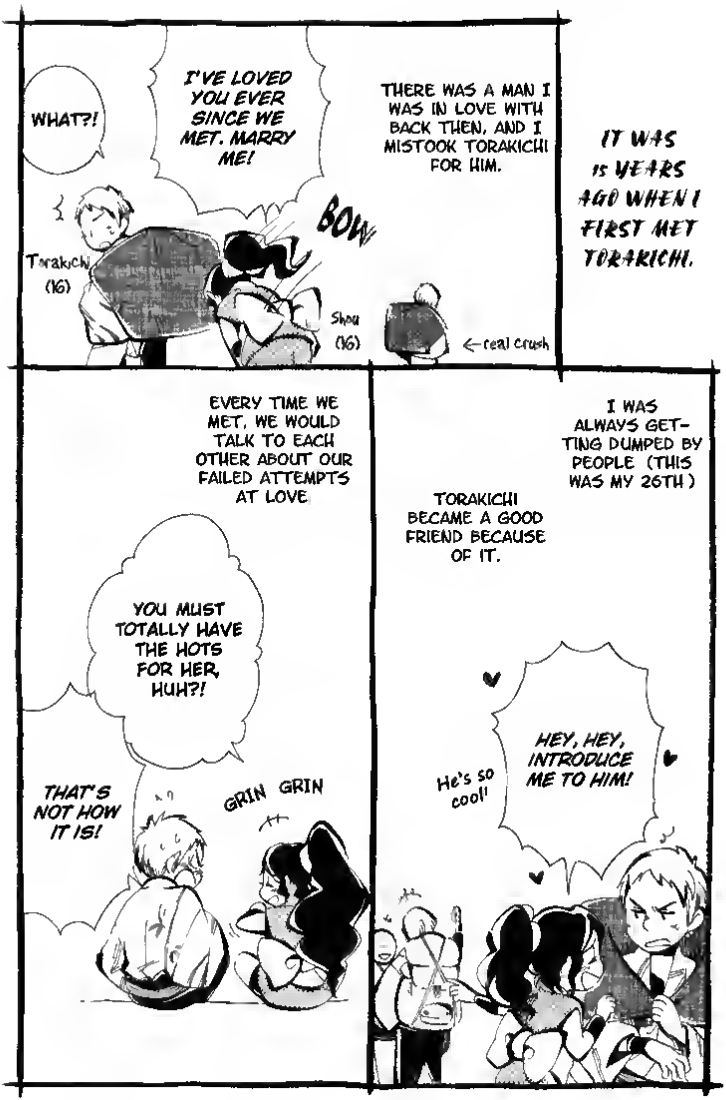
EAT THEM TOGETHER?!
WH...
WHY DON'T WE...
THRUST
AH...
A CANDY.
THIS IS...
TAKE ONE!
HERE!
SHAKE
!
LIFT
CHOMP
...
PICK

CHEW
...
CHEW

THAT SO?
PAPA, SHIROU GAVE KOMA A CANDY!
HE SMILED!
DASH
HA HA HA HA!
YOU CAN'T USE IEJI, RIGHT?
HOP
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS, I'LL GO ON TO THE TEMPLE AHEAD OF YOU AND EXPLAIN.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AND TELL HIM HOW CLOSE YOU AND I ARE!
IT'S FINE! I WANT TO SEE THE ABBOT ANYWAY!
IS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO DO THAT, SHOU?!
AH.

...
GLANCE
SEE YOU LATER!
DON'T YOU DARE TALK LIKE THAT!
EE EE EE!
TAP TAP
STROKE
GRAB


LET'S GO TOGETHER!
YOU DON'T NEED TO CATCH UP ANY MORE.
...
SQUEEZE
PAPA!


IT WAS 15 YEARS AGO WHEN I FIRST MET TORAKICHI.
THERE WAS A MAN I WAS IN LOVE WITH BACK THEN, AND I MISTOOK TORAKICHI FOR HIM.
I'VE LOVED YOU EVER SINCE WE MET. MARRY ME!
WHAT?!
BOW
Torakichi (16)
Shou (16)
←real crush
I WAS ALWAYS GETTING DUMPED BY PEOPLE (THIS WAS MY 26TH)
TORAKICHI BECAME A GOOD FRIEND BECAUSE OF IT.
HEY, HEY, INTRODUCE ME TO HIM!
He's so cool!
EVERY TIME WE MET, WE WOULD TALK TO EACH OTHER ABOUT OUR FAILED ATTEMPTS AT LOVE
YOU MUST TOTALLY HAVE THE HOTS FOR HER, HUH?!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!
GRIN GRIN

HEARING TORAKICHI'S TALES OF WOE WAS THE ABSOLUTE BEST MEDICINE FOR ME
GRIN GRIN
?
I HEARD THE GIRL HE LIKED WAS IN AN ARRANGED MARRIAGE.
SO I ASKED WHY THEY DIDN'T JUST ELOPE
WHEN I HEARD THAT THEY REALLY HAD, I WAS SO ANNOYED
Dumped the previous day (52nd time)

EXTRA STORY 20- END

Chichikogusa

Chapter 23

BY TAGAWA MI

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CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

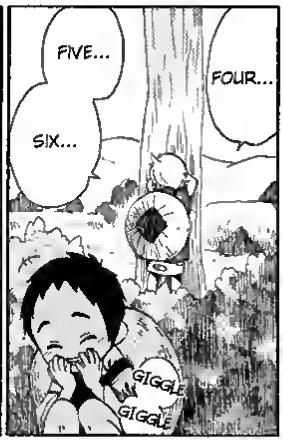
AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

CHAPTER 24: FIRST FRIEND

THREE...

ONE...
TWO...

TEN!
NINE...
SPIN


FIVE...
FOUR...
SIX...
GIGGLE
GIGGLE

?
SNEAK

SHIROU
PEEK

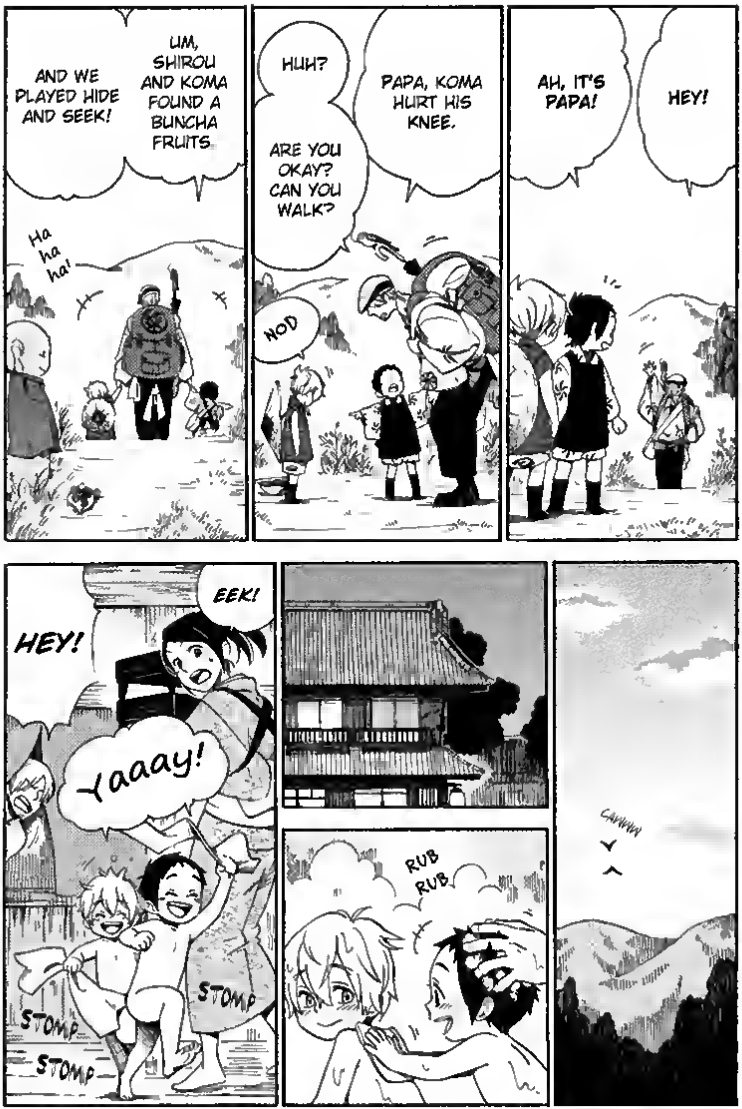
GLANCE
GLANCE
TAP
TAP
TAP

Eeeee!
STOMP
STOMP
FOUND YOU!
SHOVE
BOO!
THERE'S A LOT OF RASPBERRIES!
LOOK, KOMA!
AH.
PANT
PANT
YEAH.
IT'S MEDICINE?
WE CAN MAKE THESE INTO MEDICINE.

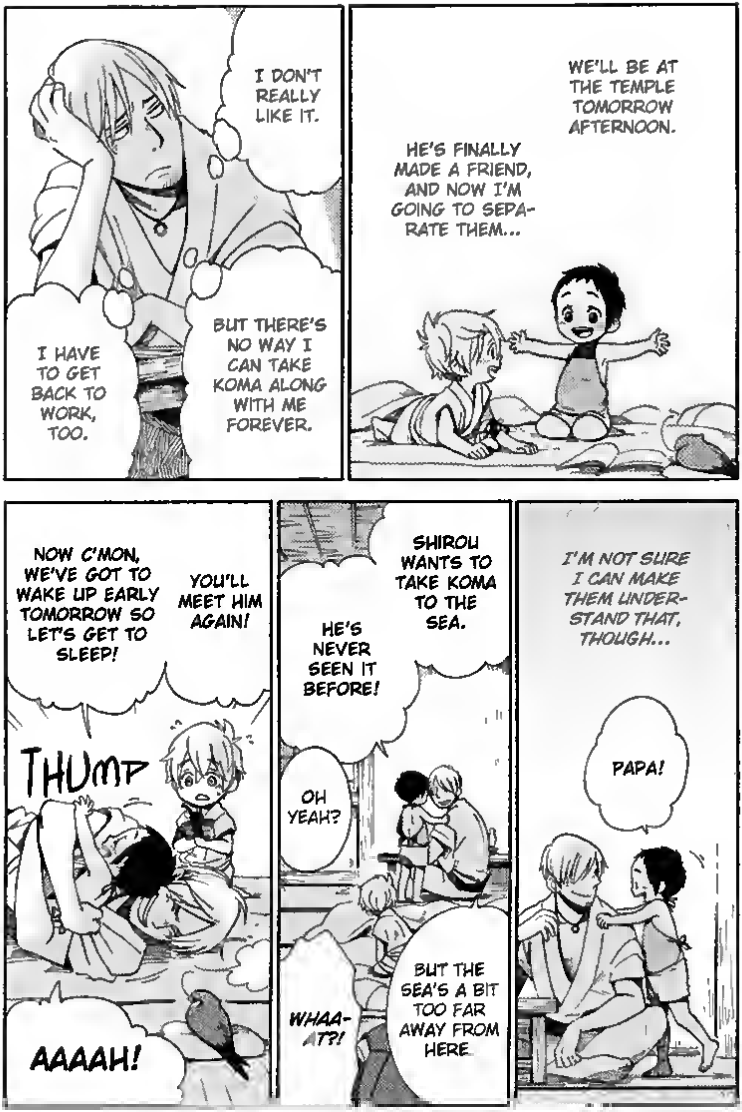
WOW! SO MUCH!
THAT'S MULBERRY FRUIT!
MUL-BERRY FRUIT!
MUL-BERRY BARK!
GOOD FOR EXHAUS-TION.
Hop
Hop
LET'S GIVE THESE TO PAPA!
YEAH.
AH!
WHACK
?!
HA HA HA HA HA!

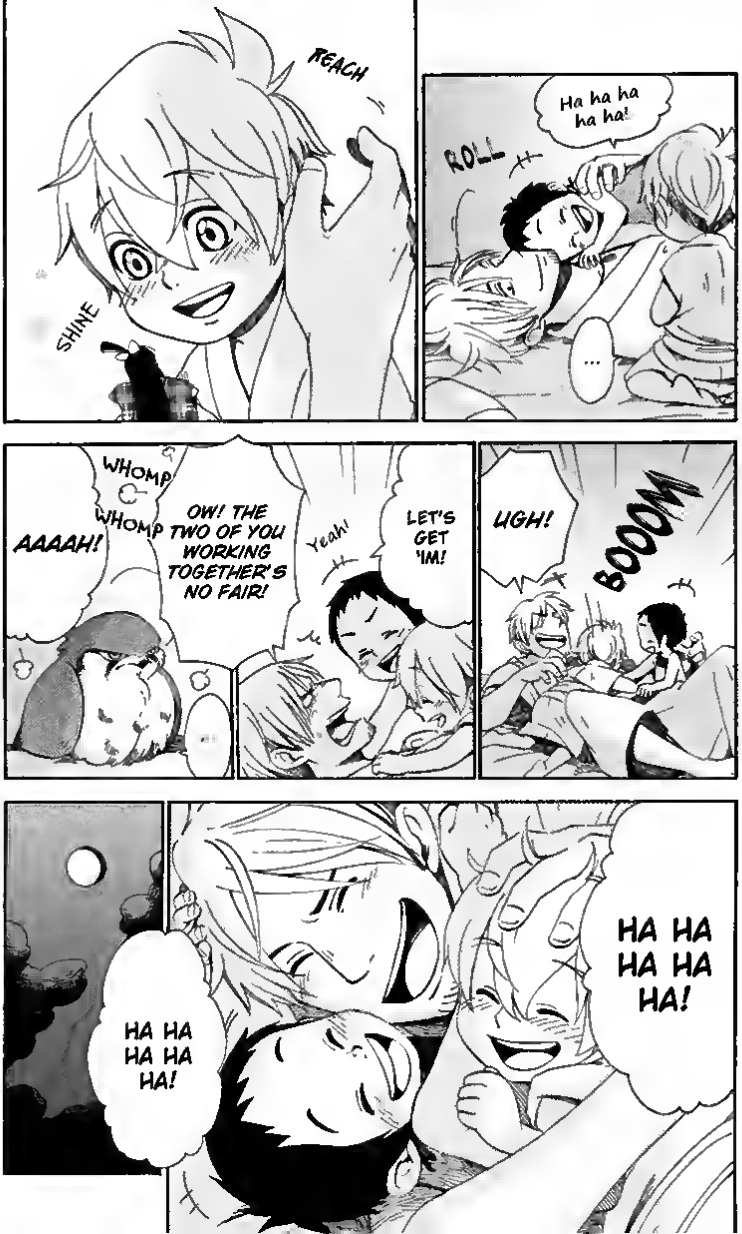
AH.
OOZE
IT HURTS ...
UH..
DID YOU GET HURT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
...
KOMA?!
DASH
UH...
WAIT THERE! I'M NOT RUNNING AWAY!
WAIT...
SHIROU!
WOBBLE
SNAP
HERE!
!
DASH

PAT
PAT
PAIN PAIN, FLY AWAY!
?
I BROUGHT YOU SOME MEDICINE.
BOW
SNAP
SNAP
IT'S A GREAT MEDICINE FOR ANY TIME YOU'VE GOTTEN HURT.
I JUST PUT A LEAF CALLED "KNOTWEED"* ON YOU.
[KNOTWEED]
FALLOPIA JAPONICA
EFFICACY:
WORKS AS A DIURETIC OR LAXITIVE. THE UNCOOKED LEAVES ARE ALSO USEFUL FOR STOPPING SMALL CUTS FROM BLEEDING
...
NOW IT'S FLY AWAY!
BOO!
YOU'RE OKAY NOW.
There there.
*KNOTWEED: THE PRONUNCIATION FOR THIS IS "ITADORI." SHIROU SAYS IT WITH THE KANJI FOR "PAIN" AND "FLY," HENCE HIS RHYME. IT'S NORMALLY WRITTEN WITH DIFFERENT KANJI


AND WE PLAYED HIDE AND SEEK!
UM, SHIROU AND KOMA FOUND A BUNCHA FRUITS.
Ha ha ha!
HUH?
PAPA, KOMA HURT HIS KNEE.
ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU WALK?
NOD
AH, IT'S PAPA!
HEY!
EEK!
HEY!
Yaaay!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
RUB RUB
CAWWW

THEY'RE ACTING LIKE BROTHERS...
AND THIS IS ANGELICA ROOT.
ANGELICA ROOT.
"JUJUBE"!
THIS IS JUJUBE.
JUJUBE?
Ha ha ha!
I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D GET ALONG THIS WELL TOGETHER.

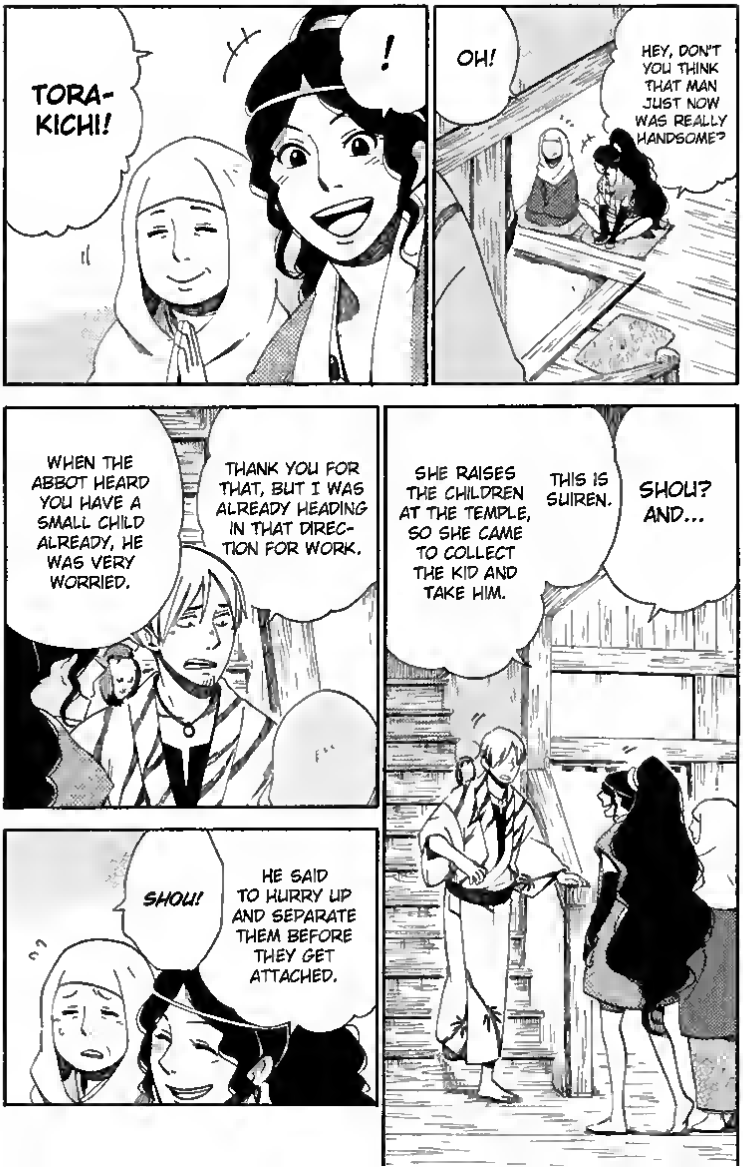

I DON'T REALLY LIKE IT.
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN TAKE KOMA ALONG WITH ME FOREVER.
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO WORK, TOO.
WE'LL BE AT THE TEMPLE TOMORROW AFTERNOON.
HE'S FINALLY MADE A FRIEND, AND NOW I'M GOING TO SEPARATE THEM...
I'M NOT SURE I CAN MAKE THEM UNDERSTAND THAT, THOUGH...
PAPA!
SHIROU WANTS TO TAKE KOMA TO THE SEA.
HE'S NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE!
OH YEAH?
BUT THE SEA'S A BIT TOO FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
WHAA-AT?!
NOW C'MON, WE'VE GOT TO WAKE UP EARLY TOMORROW SO LET'S GET TO SLEEP!
YOU'LL MEET HIM AGAIN!
THUMP
AAAAH!


REACH
SHINE
Ha ha ha ha ha!
ROLL
...
WHOMP
WHOMP
AAAAH!
OW! THE TWO OF YOU WORKING TOGETHER'S NO FAIR!
Yeah!
LET'S GET 'IM!
UGH!
BOOM
HA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA!

WE ONLY GOT TO TRAVEL TOGETHER FOR FIVE DAYS, IN THE END...
HE SHOULD ...
Zzz...
IT SURE WOULD BE NICE TO TAKE HIM SOMEWHERE, EVEN IF IT'S NOT THE SEA.
Zzz...
HAVE BEEN ABLE...
TO PLAY MORE WITH HIS NEW FRIEND...
HAVING TO ABANDON THE CHILD YOU HAD WITH A MAN YOU DIDN'T EVEN LOVE IS KARMIC RETRIBUTION.

MAMA?
I'LL BE SURE TO MAKE YOU HAPPY.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF JUST CUTTING TIES WITH A CHILD LIKE THAT.
DON'T WORRY. JUST COME WITH ME
WOW, IT'S RAINING REALLY HARD.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE LIKE THIS...
AH!
LIFT
FSSSHHHHHHHH
MAMA!

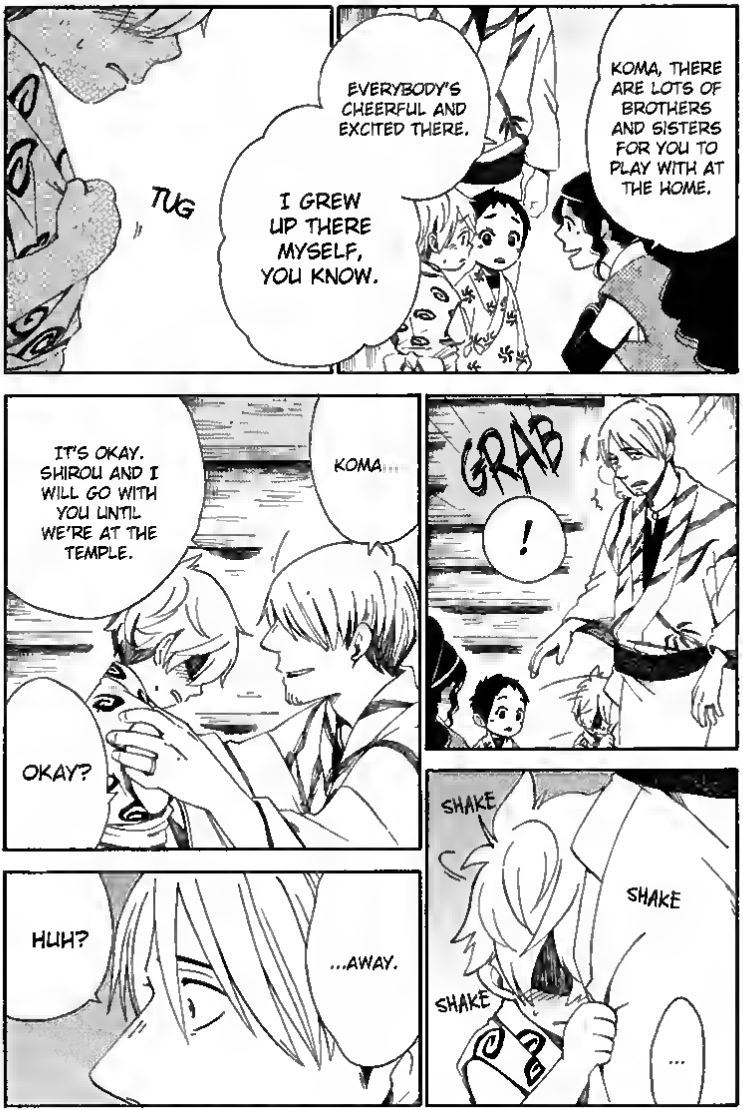
MORN-ING...
SHIROU.
GRIN
MORNING!
KOMA!
RUB RUB
FSSSSSHHHHHHH
WE WEREN'T IN A HURRY.
THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY!
LOOK AT THE RAIN!
WELL, THAT'S OKAY.
WE GET TO PLAY INSIDE TODAY!
YEAH.
ME?
THERE'S SOMEONE DOWNSTAIRS TO SEE YOU.
AH, TORA-KICHI.
SLIDE
KNOCK KNOCK
I'M A NANAKUSAYA MEDICINE SELLER!
YES?


TORA-KICHI!
!
OH!
HEY, DON'T YOU THINK THAT MAN JUST NOW WAS REALLY HANDSOME?
WHEN THE ABBOT HEARD YOU HAVE A SMALL CHILD ALREADY, HE WAS VERY WORRIED.
THANK YOU FOR THAT, BUT I WAS ALREADY HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION FOR WORK.
SHE RAISES THE CHILDREN AT THE TEMPLE, SO SHE CAME TO COLLECT THE KID AND TAKE HIM.
THIS IS SUIREN.
SHOU? AND...
SHOU!
HE SAID TO HURRY UP AND SEPARATE THEM BEFORE THEY GET ATTACHED.

...
DID YOU COME IN THIS RAIN?
WE ARRIVED LAST NIGHT, BUT WE'RE STAYING AT ANOTHER INN. THEY HEARD US MENTION A MEDICINE SELLER AND TOLD US YOU WERE HERE.
...
OH, YOU'RE HERE?
Lucky!
AH!
HEY THERE, LITTLE CUTIE-PIES! WE MEET AGAIN!
HELLO.
FLINCH
HELLO THERE, SHIROU. YOU'RE MUCH BIGGER THAN LAST YEAR!
HELLO
BOW
COME DOWN AND SAY HELLO PROPERLY.

HIDE
YOU MUST BE KOMA, IS THAT RIGHT?
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. MY NAME IS SUIREN.
I'VE COME HERE TO MEET YOU FROM JISOUAN TEMPLE.
?!
GLANCE
...

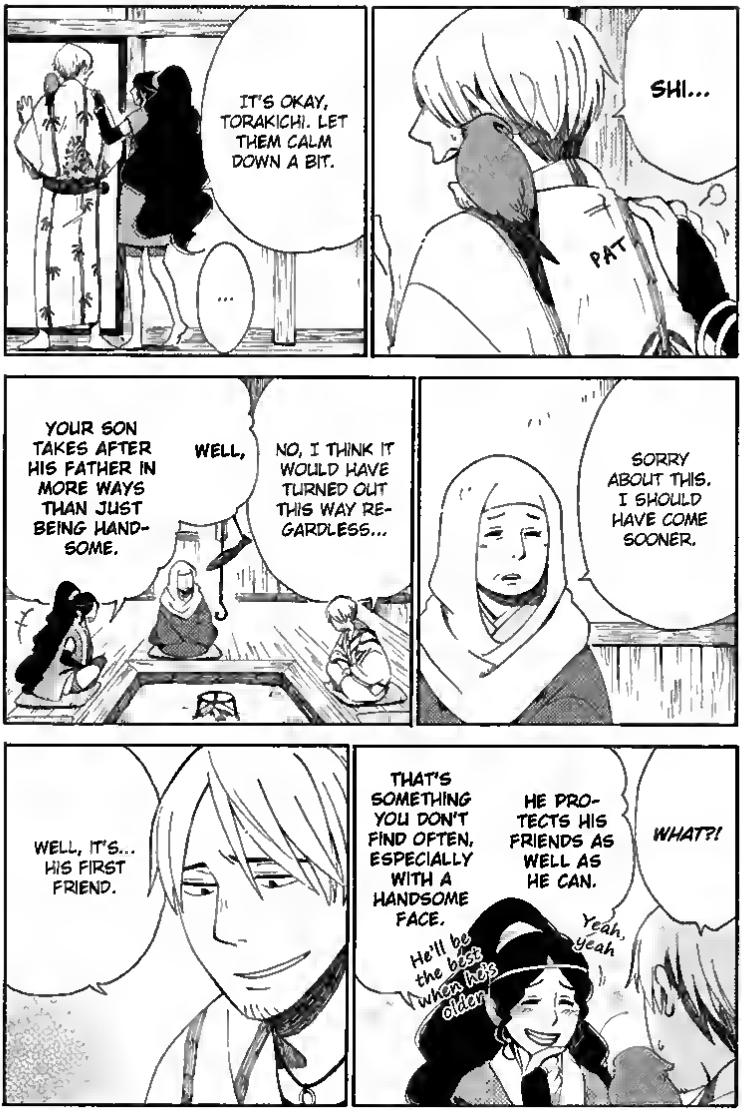
THAT'S...
HE'S GOING AWAY?!
UH, WELL...
PAPA, IS KOMA GOING WITH THEM?
HE'S JUST GOING TO THAT HOME, IS ALL.
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SEE HIM WITH YOUR PAPA ANY TIME.
BUT...
SHIROU, KOMA'S FOUND HIMSELF A NEW HOME.
A HOME?

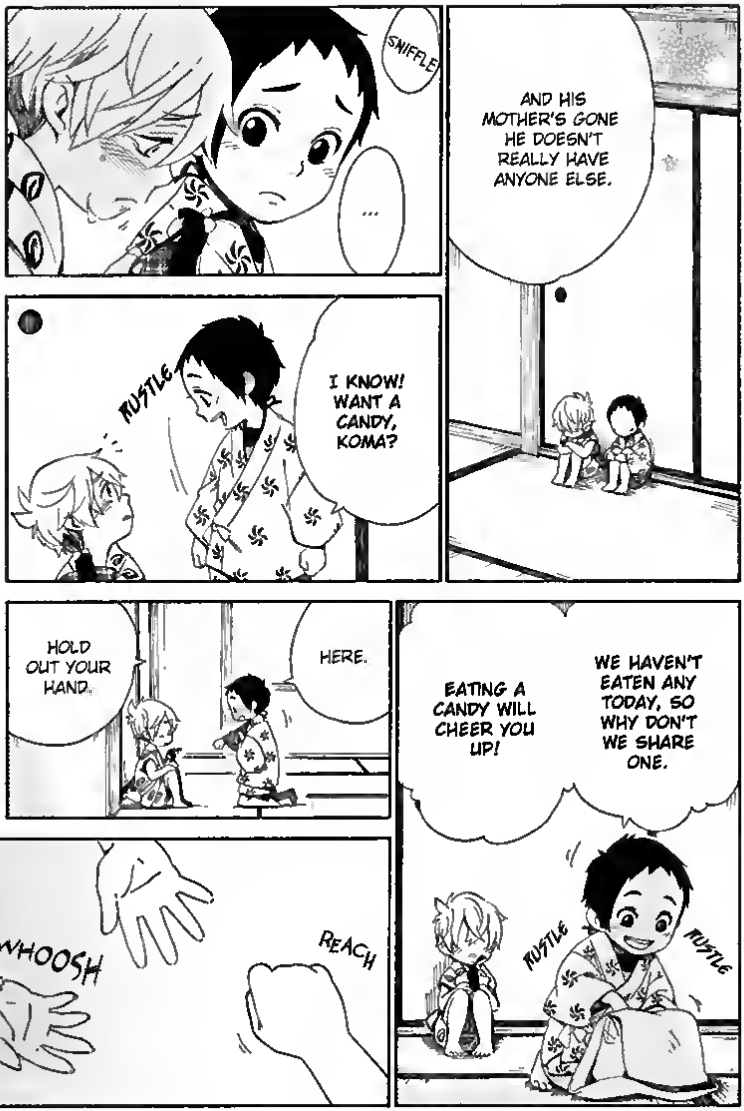

KOMA, THERE ARE LOTS OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS FOR YOU TO PLAY WITH AT THE HOME.
EVERYBODY'S CHEERFUL AND EXCITED THERE.
I GREW UP THERE MYSELF, YOU KNOW.
TUG
KOMA...
IT'S OKAY. SHIROU AND I WILL GO WITH YOU UNTIL WE'RE AT THE TEMPLE.
OKAY?
GRAB
!
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
...
...AWAY.
HUH?

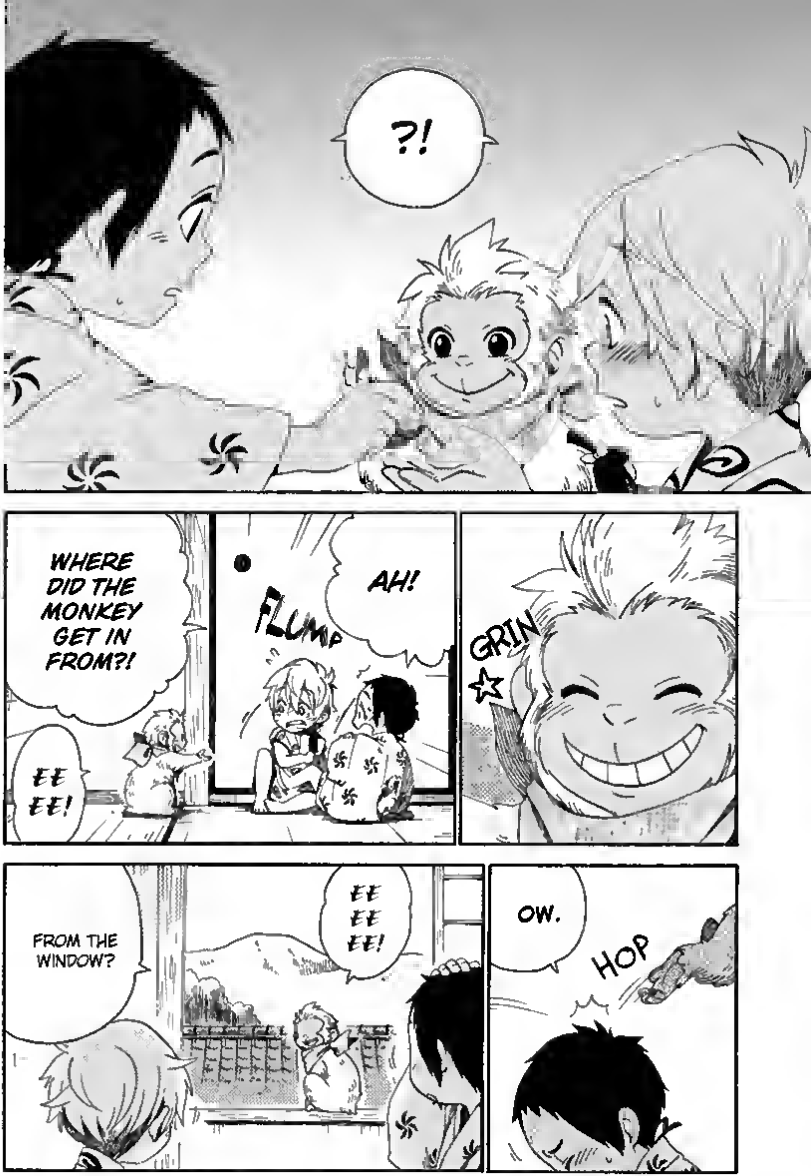
DON'T THROW ME AWAY...
THRUST

DON'T MAKE KOMA CRY!
PAPA, YOU MEANIE!
STOMP STOMP
HEY! COME BACK HERE AND TALK TO ME!
RUSTLE
SHIROU!
HEY!
STOMP STOMP
AH!

KNOCK
KNOCK
...
HEY, COME OUT HERE!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
SHIROU!
SLAM
NO WAY!
YOU MADE KOMA CRY!
ANYONE WHO MAKES SHIROU'S FRIEND CRY IS MEAN!
I'M NOT COMING OUT!
...


IT'S OKAY, TORAKICHI. LET THEM CALM DOWN A BIT.
...
SHI...
PAT
SORRY ABOUT THIS. I SHOULD HAVE COME SOONER.
NO, I THINK IT WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT THIS WAY REGARDLESS...
WELL,
YOUR SON TAKES AFTER HIS FATHER IN MORE WAYS THAN JUST BEING HANDSOME.
WHAT?!
HE PROTECTS HIS FRIENDS AS WELL AS HE CAN.
THAT'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T FIND OFTEN, ESPECIALLY WITH A HANDSOME FACE.
Yeah, yeah
He'll be the boss when he's older
WELL, IT'S... HIS FIRST FRIEND.


SNIFFLE
...
AND HIS MOTHER'S GONE HE DOESN'T REALLY HAVE ANYONE ELSE.
RUSTLE
I KNOW! WANT A CANDY, KOMA?
HOLD OUT YOUR HAND.
HERE.
EATING A CANDY WILL CHEER YOU UP!
WE HAVEN'T EATEN ANY TODAY, SO WHY DON'T WE SHARE ONE.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
WHOOSH
REACH


?!
WHERE DID THE MONKEY GET IN FROM?!
EE EE!
FLUMP
AH!
GRIN
FROM THE WINDOW?
EE EE EE!
OW.
HOP

AH, LOOK, KOMA!
WOW, THAT'S AWE-SOME!
HUH? THE RAIN STOPPED.
PLOP
EE EE.
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
IT'S A RAINBOW!
SO PRETTY.
HEY, LET'S TRY WALKING UNDER IT!
!

TAP TAP
AH.
EE EE!
HOP
BUT...
...
...
EE EE!
EEE!
LIM,
YEAH.
OKAY.
ARE YOU READY?
SCRAPE SCRAPE

COME ON, KOMA!
IT'S OKAY.
YEAH.
SLIDE
TAP
OKAY.
I'LL GO FIRST, YOU FOLLOW ME, KOMA!
BU-BUMP
BU-BUMP
SLIDE
SLIDE
...
THEY'RE SLIPPERY, SO BE CAREFUL.
EE!
OKAY, I GOT IT.
EE!
EE!

KOMA, DO YOU WANT TO GO DOWN FIRST?
OKAY.
HUP!
SLIDE
!
MPH!
WHUMP
SNURL
WHACK
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
WHACK
SORRY, KOMA!
ARE YOU OKAY?!
AH!

HA HA HA!
がばっ
SFX: GLOMP
HA HA HA HA HA!
....
MY HEART'S STILL BEATING FAST!
UM, I WAS SCARED AT FIRST BUT IT WAS SO FUN!
THAT WAS SO EXCITING!
?!
Ha ha!
Ha ha

Ha ha ha ha ha!
EE EE!
...
MINE IS TOO!
YEAH.
LET'S GO DO MORE FUN THINGS TOGETHER!
TAP
YEAH!
AND THAT SOUNDED LIKE MY MONKEY.
VOICES,
?
FROM OUT-SIDE...?
...
WHERE ARE YOU?!
KOMA?!
HEY!
SLAM
SHIROU!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

WHAT?!
THERE'S A TON OF LITTLE FOOT-PRINTS DOWN HERE!
TORA-KICHI!
?!
WHERE DID THEY GO?!
Ha ha ha ha!
ARE THEY DOING?
WHAT IN THE WORLD...

Chichikogusa

Chapter 24

BY TAGAWA MI

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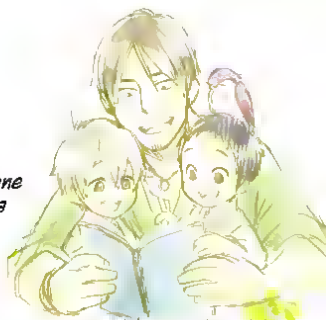

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CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

AUTHOR: TAGAWA MI

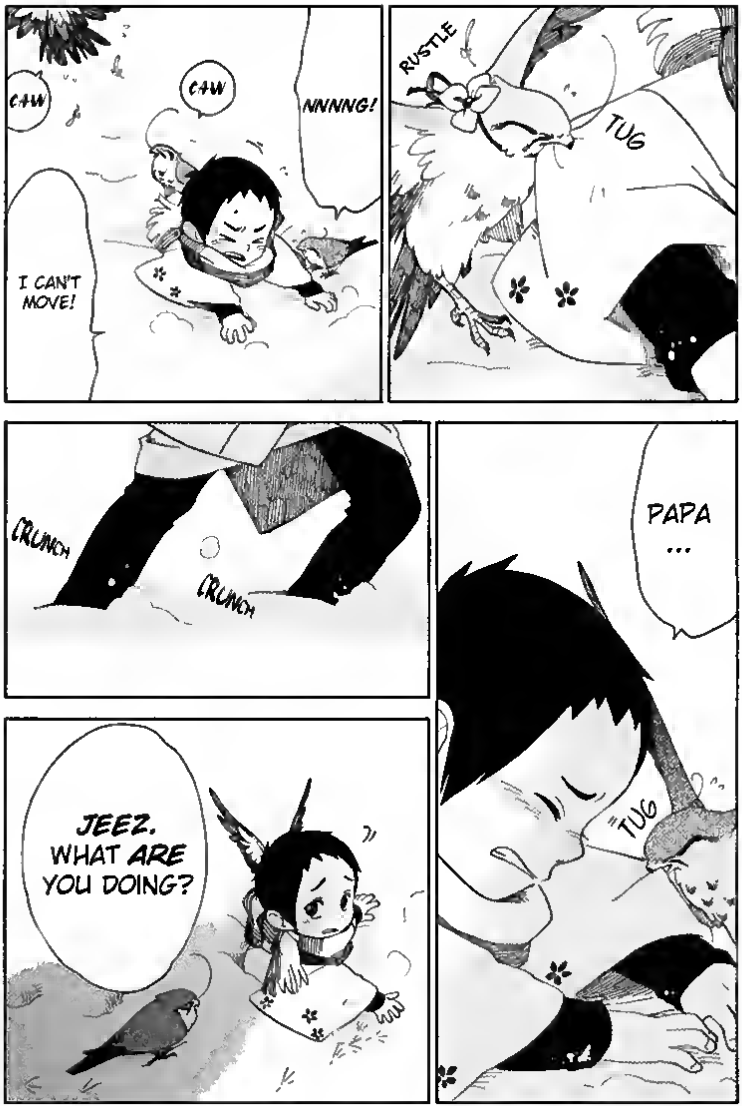
EXTRA STORY: SHIROU AND THE SNOW DAY

THIS HAPPENED A LITTLE WHILE AGO
WHEN TORAKICHI WAS SICK IN BED WITH A FEVER
SHIROU HAD TO ENTERTAIN HIMSELF ALONE AT THE INN
(SEE VOLUME 2)
...
TCH. FOR SOMEONE WHO'S STUCK INSIDE WITH A SICK CO-WORKER, YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME.
I HAVE NO INTEREST IN KIDS OR THAT GUY, SORRY. ♡
IF YOU GIMME MONEY, I'LL PLAY WITH 'IM
WOW YOU'RE THE WORST, YOU KNOW?
SHUT IT, WEIRDO.
EXCUSE ME?!

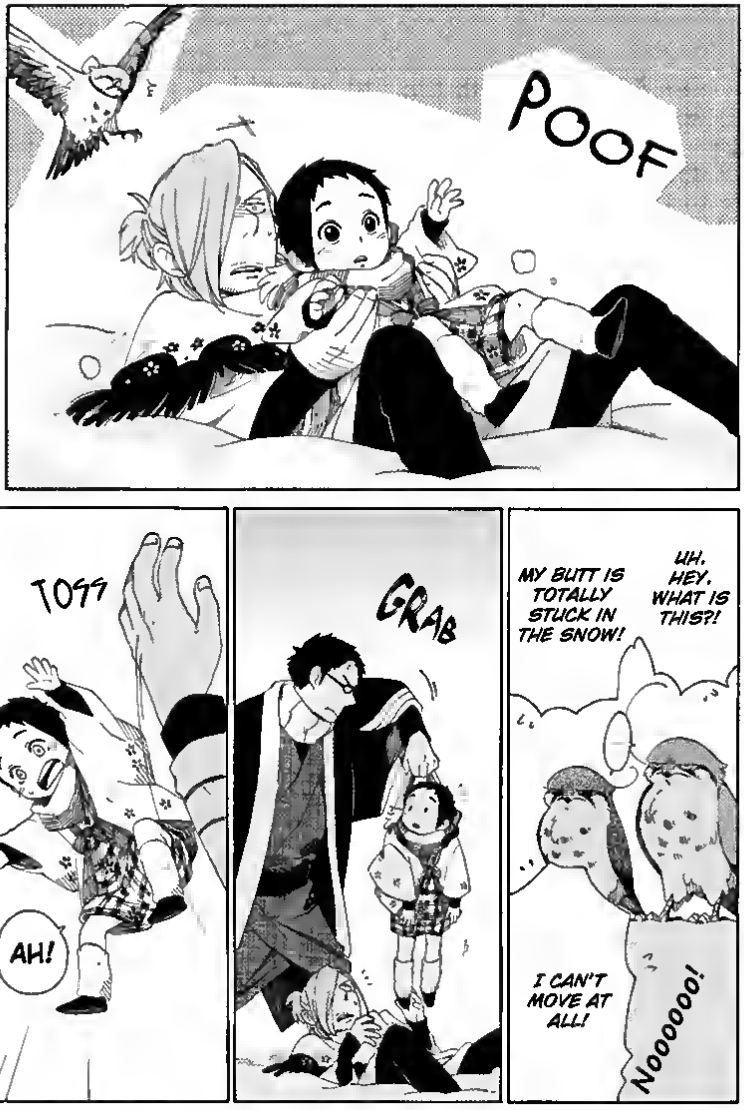
MISSING

FLAP
...
CAN I GO PLAY OUTSIDE?
UM... PLEASE?
SURE.
DON'T WONDER OFF TOO FAR.
FIDGET
CAW
HOP
HOP
WOW, SO MUCH SNOW!
RUSTLE
STARTLE
STARTLE

SFX FLOMP


CAW
CAW
NNNNG!
I CAN'T MOVE!
RUSTLE
TUG
CRUNCH
CRUNCH
PAPA ...
TUG
JEEZ. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, DON'T GET INTO TROUBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE!
S...
SORRY...
DO YOU AND YOUR DAD EXIST ONLY TO CAUSE ME TROUBLE?!
!
POP
AH!
WHY ARE YOU SO STUCK...?
Huh?
HON-ESTLY...
TUG


POOF
TOSS
AH!
GRAB
MY BUTT IS TOTALLY STUCK IN THE SNOW!
UH, HEY, WHAT IS THIS?!
I CAN'T MOVE AT ALL!
Nooooooo!

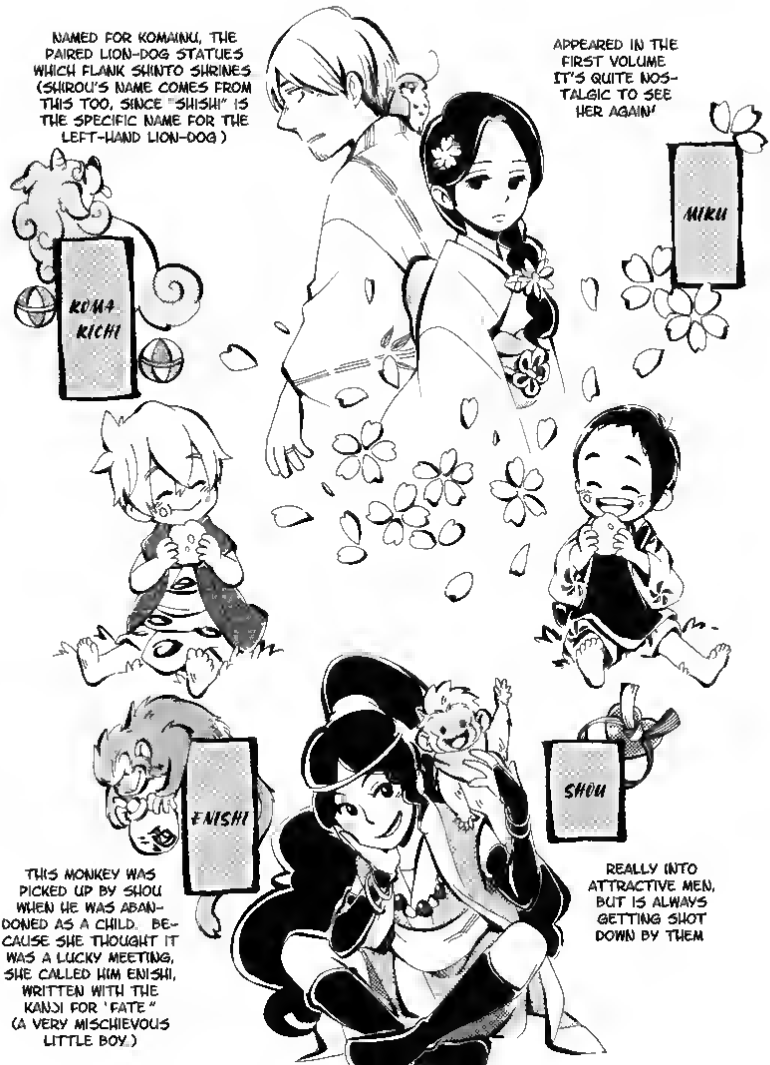
That must be cold!
FACE FIRST INTO THE SNOW!
Ha ha ha ha ha!
SHAKE SHAKE
HA HA HA HA HA!
POOF
SPLAT
HA—
GRIN
PFFBBBTTT! IT WENT INTO MY MOUTH! AUGH!
SPIT SPIT

AAAAAH!
SORRY, SORRY. JUST WAIT UNTIL SPRING, WILL YOU?
FLUMP
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR "EEEK!"
EEEK!
YOU BRAT, I'LL GET YOU BACK!
GET ME OUT OF HERE TOO!
Hnnng! Hnnnng!
Ha ha ha ha!
I'LL REMEMBER THIS...!
YUJIRU-UUUUU!
SPRRRT
YOU...
SHIYO WILL GET YOU OUT!

...
AH.
I GOT MIXED UP.
I MEANT, UH, TEACHER CHIHARU.
OLD MAN.
IT'S OKAY,
Hhnng!
AAAAH!
I WON'T FORGIVE EITHER OF YOU FOR THIS! I'LL MAKE YOU PAY, I WILL!
HE WAS GLAD TO PLAY TOGETHER WITH THEM.
HMPH!
SO NICE THAT YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WELL TOGETHER, OLD MAN!
PFFFFT
FLINCH
FSSSSH

CHICHIKOGUSA
[FATHER AND CHILD GRASS]

EXTRAS...


NAMED FOR KOMAINU, THE PAIRED LION-DOG STATUES WHICH FLANK SHINTO SHRINES (SHIROU'S NAME COMES FROM THIS TOO, SINCE "SHISHI" IS THE SPECIFIC NAME FOR THE LEFT-HAND LION-DOG.)
KOMA KICHI
APPEARED IN THE FIRST VOLUME IT'S QUITE NOSTALGIC TO SEE HER AGAIN!
MIKU
ENISHI
SHOU
THIS MONKEY WAS PICKED UP BY SHOU WHEN HE WAS ABANDONED AS A CHILD. BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT IT WAS A LUCKY MEETING, SHE CALLED HIM ENISHI, WRITTEN WITH THE KANJI FOR "FATE" (A VERY MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE BOY.)
REALLY INTO ATTRACTIVE MEN, BUT IS ALWAYS GETTING SHOT DOWN BY THEM

CHICHIKOGUSA - AFTERWORD

HELLO!
SOMEHOW HERE WE ARE AGAIN AT THE END OF CHICHIKOGUSA, VOLUME 4. I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO EVERYONE AGAIN.
HOW ARE YOU FINDING THE FATHER AND SON PAIR'S JOURNEY NOW THAT THEY'VE LEFT THEIR HOME VILLAGE AGAIN?
I KNOW I'VE LEFT OFF THIS VOLUME ON A CLIFF-HANGER, BUT THE STORY WILL PICK UP STRAIGHT AWAY IN VOLUME 5, SO PLEASE ENJOY IT WHEN IT COMES OUT!

THANKS TO MY OLD EDITOR "I" WHO WAS WITH ME SINCE THE BEGINNING FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK! AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH MY NEW EDITOR "I" FROM NOW ON (THAT'S A LITTLE CONFUSING!)

THANKS TO MY YOUNGER SISTER FOR WORKING AS MY ASSISTANT AND THANKS TO MY NEPHEW AND MOTHER FOR EVERYTHING

THE PACE OF VOLUME RELEASES IS A LITTLE SLOW, BUT I HOPE YOU CONTINUE TO PICK THEM UP. THANK YOU FOR READING ALL THE WAY TO THE END HERE!

TAGAWA MI

BLADE COMICS

ちちこぐさ ④

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Chichikogusa
Extra
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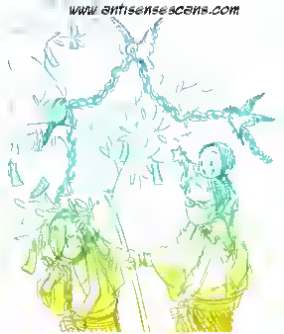

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